

## OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION ) ORDER OPENING DOCKET  
 INTO THE LIFELINE AND LINK UP )  
 PROGRAMS )  
 ) TC97-150

A August 18, 1997, regularly scheduled meeting, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) voted to open a docket concerning the Federal Communications Commission's Report and Order on Universal Service regarding the Lifeline and Link Up programs. In its Report and Order, the FCC decided that it would provide for additional federal support in the amount of \$1.75, above the current \$3.50 level. However, in order for a state's Lifeline consumers to receive the additional \$1.75 in federal support, the state commission must approve that reduction in the portion of the intrastate rate paid by the end user. 47 C.F.R. § 54.403(a). Additional federal support may also be received in an amount equal to 1/2 of any support generated from the intrastate jurisdiction, up to a maximum of \$7.00 in federal support. 47 C.F.R. § 54.403(a). A state commission must file or require the carrier to file information with the administrator of the federal universal service fund demonstrating that the carrier's Lifeline plan meets the criteria set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.401.

The Commission decided to accept written comments from interested persons and entities concerning how the Commission should implement the FCC's rules on the Lifeline and Link Up programs. In their written comments, interested persons and entities should comment on the following questions:

1. Whether the Commission should approve intrastate rate reductions to allow consumers eligible for Lifeline support to receive the additional \$1.75 in federal support?
2. Whether the Commission should set up a state Lifeline Program to fund further reductions in the intrastate rate paid by the end user?
3. Whether the Commission should modify the existing Lifeline or Link Up Programs?
4. Shall the Commission file or require the carrier to file information with the administrator of the federal universal service fund demonstrating that the carrier's Lifeline plan meets the criteria set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.401 (d)?

Interested persons and entities may provide additional comments on any other issues concerning the Lifeline and Link up programs. Written comments shall be filed with the Commission or before September 12, 1997. It is therefore

ORDERED, that interested persons and entities may provide written comments on the above listed questions as well as any other issues concerning the Lifeline and Link up programs on or before September 12, 1997.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 28th day of August, 1997.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b></p> <p>The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.</p> <p>By: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>JAMES A. BURG, Chairman</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PAM NELSON, Commissioner</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner</b></p>
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