

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

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| IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT) | ORDER GRANTING WAIVER |
| OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR WEST) | OF COMMISSION'S COST |
| RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS) | STUDY MODEL |
| COOPERATIVE) | |
|) | TC97-118 |

On June 30, 1997, West River Telecommunications Cooperative (West River) filed for approval by the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) its 1996 Intrastate Switched Access Cost Study. This information was provided to the Local Exchange Carriers Association for use in their intrastate access rate filing. West River also requested the Commission waive the requirement that it use the Commission's cost study model and instead allow the use of GVNW's cost study model.

On July 3, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 18, 1997, to interested individuals and entities. On July 11, 1997, the Commission received a Petition for Leave to Intervene from U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST). On July 29, 1997, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission granted U S WEST's Petition to Intervene and assessed West River a \$1,000 filing fee. On August 18, 1997, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered West River's request to waive the requirement that West River use the Commission's cost study model and instead allow the use of GVNW's cost study model.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 1-26-17.1, 49-1A-9, 49-31-12.6, 49-31-18, 49-31-19 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02, 20:10:01:15.05, 20:10:27:07 and 20:10:27:14.

The Commission finds that it is appropriate to waive the requirement that West River use the Commission's cost study model and allow the use of GVNW's cost study model. It is therefore

ORDERED that use of the Commission's cost study model is hereby waived and instead West River shall be allowed to use GVNW's cost study model.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3rd day of September, 1997.

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| CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE |
| 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. |
| By: <u><i>Aldrin Kelbo</i></u> |
| Date: <u>9/3/97</u> |
| (OFFICIAL SEAL) |

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner