

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING FOR) APPROVAL OF A TRANSFER OF AN) INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN) MCLEODUSA TELECOM DEVELOPMENT, INC.) F/K/A DAKOTA TELECOM, INC. AND) PRAIRIEWAVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.) AND QWEST CORPORATION F/K/A U S WEST) COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)	ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF AN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT TC02-168
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On October 17, 2002, Qwest Corporation (Qwest) submitted a filing requesting that the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) approve the transfer of an interconnection agreement. The original agreement was between McLeodUSA Telecom Development, Inc. f/k/a Dakota Telecom, Inc. (McLeod) and Qwest. The transfer proposed to transfer McLeod's obligations to PrairieWave Telecommunications, Inc. (PrairieWave). The proposed transfer is contingent upon approval and sale of a stock purchase agreement by McLeod to PrairieWave and approval of transfer by the Commission.

On October 24, 2002, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing of the transfer request to interested individuals and entities. The notice stated that any person wishing to comment on the parties' request for approval had until November 6, 2002, to do so. No comments were filed.

At its duly noticed November 20, 2002, meeting, the Commission considered whether to approve the transfer of McLeod's interconnection agreement with Qwest from McLeod to PrairieWave. Commission Staff recommended its approval.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, and the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. In accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2), the Commission found that the transfer does not discriminate against a telecommunications carrier that is not a party to the transfer and the transfer is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the transfer of the agreement. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the transfer of the agreement as described herein.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd day of December, 2002.

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>Helaine Kalbo</i></u>
Date: <u><i>12/2/02</i></u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner