

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)	ORDER GRANTING
NORTHERN VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS, LLC)	EXTENSION FROM
FOR AN EXTENSION OF AN EXEMPTION)	DEVELOPING COMPANY
FROM DEVELOPING COMPANY SPECIFIC)	SPECIFIC COST-BASED
COST-BASED SWITCHED ACCESS RATES)	SWITCHED ACCESS RATES
)	TC02-170

On October 21, 2002, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a request from Northern Valley Communications, LLC (Northern Valley) for approval of an additional three (3) year extension of its exemption from the requirement to develop intrastate switched access rates based on company specific costs.

On November 20, 2002, the Commission considered Northern Valley's request for approval of an additional three (3) year extension of its exemption from establishing switched access rates based on company specific costs. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-31-18, 49-31-19, and ARSD 20:10:27:11. The Commission voted to grant the request for approval of an additional three (3) year extension of its exemption. The Commission further ordered that Northern Valley, within three years of the date of this Order, file a petition to continue the exemption granted in this proceeding or file cost-based rates. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Northern Valley's request for approval of an additional three (3) year extension of its exemption from establishing company specific cost-based switched access rates is granted; and it is further

ORDERED, that Northern Valley shall, within three years of the date of this Order, file a petition to continue the exemption granted in this proceeding or file cost-based intrastate switched access rates.

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

<p>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</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: <u>Melaine Kalbo</u></p> <p>Date: <u>12/2/02</u></p> <p align="center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
 JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
 PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Robert K. Sahr
 ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner