

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT) OF SWITCHED ACCESS REVENUE) REQUIREMENT FOR EAST PLAINS) TELECOM, INC.)	ORDER APPROVING REVENUE REQUIREMENT TC02-072
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On June 20, 2002, East Plains Telecom, Inc. (East Plains) filed for approval by the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) its 2001 Intrastate Switched Access Cost Study. On November 26, 2002 and September 2, 2003, East Plains filed amended 2001 Intrastate Switched Access Cost Studies.

On June 27, 2002, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 12, 2002, to interested individuals and entities. On July 9, 2002, the Commission received a Petition to Intervene from S&S Communications (S&S). At a regularly scheduled meeting of July 23, 2002, the Commission granted intervention to S&S. The Commission also voted to assess a filing fee as requested by the Executive Director up to the statutory limit of \$100,000. On July 11, 2003, the Commission received a Motion to Dismiss S&S as intervenor in this proceeding from East Plains. At its regularly scheduled meeting of August 19, 2003, the Commission granted the Motion to Dismiss. Staff filed a memorandum on September 2, 2003, with the concurrence of the company, setting forth a recommended revenue requirement and minutes of use. The Commission considered this matter at its September 16, 2003, meeting.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 1-26-17.1, 49-1A-9, 49-31-12.4, 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 20:10:27:08. Upon review of East Plains' filing, the Commission found that the revenue requirement and minutes of use as depicted in Staff's memorandum were fair and reasonable and should be approved. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that East Plains' revenue requirement and minutes of use are hereby approved as revised and shall be incorporated in the Local Exchange Carriers Association's determination of switched access rates. (See TC02-090.)

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 23rd day of September, 2003.

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 Kolbo</i></u>
Date: <u>9/25/03</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr

ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner