

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING FOR) APPROVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION) AGREEMENT BETWEEN MIDCONTINENT) COMMUNICATIONS AND INTERSTATE) TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, INC.)	ORDER APPROVING AGREEMENT TC03-192
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On November 12, 2003, Midcontinent Communications (Midcontinent) filed for approval by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an interconnection agreement between Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (Interstate) and Midcontinent.

On November 13, 2003, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of this filing to interested individuals and entities. The notice stated that any person wishing to comment on the parties' request for approval had until December 2, 2003, to do so. No comments were filed.

At its duly noticed December 16, 2003, meeting, the Commission considered whether to approve the agreement between Midcontinent and Interstate. Commission Staff recommended 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 agreement does not discriminate against a telecommunications carrier that is not a party to the agreement and the agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the agreement. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the agreement.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 22nd day of December, 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>Helaine Kolbo</u>
Date: <u>12/23/03</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner