

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING FOR) ORDER DISAPPROVING
APPROVAL OF A WIRELINE ADOPTION) AGREEMENT
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN)
QWEST CORPORATION AND ERNEST) TC05-107
COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)

On July 14, 2005, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Qwest Corporation (Qwest) for approval of a negotiated agreement between Qwest and Ernest Communications, Inc. (Ernest Communications) pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 252(a)(1) and 252(e).

On July 21, 2005, 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 August 3, 2005, to do so. No comments were filed.

At its duly noticed August 9, 2005, meeting, the Commission considered whether to approve the agreement between Qwest and Ernest Communications. Commission Staff recommended not approving the agreement as Ernest Communications did not have a certificate of authority to provide local service in South Dakota.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-81, and the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. Upon review of the agreement, the Commission found that pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A), the implementation of this agreement would be inconsistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. It is therefore

ORDERED, that pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(e) and SDCL 49-31-81, the Commission does not approve the agreement which is the subject of this docket.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 18th day of August, 2005.

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>William Koelb</i></u>
Date: <u>8/18/05</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner *dk*