

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

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| IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) | ORDER GRANTING |
| SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P.) | INTERVENTION |
| FOR AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL) | |
| EXCHANGE SERVICES IN CERTAIN RURAL) | TC06-180 |
| AREAS SERVED BY INTERSTATE) | |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, INC.) | |

On October 24, 2006, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application from Sprint Communications Company L.P. (Sprint) for authority to provide local exchange services in certain rural areas served by Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (ITC).

On October 26, 2006, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of November 10, 2006, to interested individuals and entities. South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA) filed to intervene on November 7, 2006. ITC filed to intervene on November 8, 2006.

At a regularly scheduled meeting of November 14, 2006, the Commission granted intervention to ITC. The Petition to Intervene of SDTA was deferred. On November 20, 2006, the Commission received Sprint's Opposition to SDTA Petition to Intervene.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-31 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.05.

At its December 6, 2006, meeting, the Commission considered SDTA's Petition to Intervene. In its letter dated December 5, 2006, Sprint stated that it would not object to the intervention of SDTA, subject to certain restrictions that had been agreed to by Sprint and SDTA. The restrictions are that SDTA will not participate in any prehearing discovery, will call no witnesses at the hearing, will not cross-examine any witnesses called by ITC, and SDTA's cross-examination of any ITC witnesses will not be redundant of ITC's counsel's examination. In addition, if requested to by counsel for ITC, SDTA would be allowed to direct a witness of ITC with the understanding that ITC's counsel would not then submit additional direct on that witness. SDTA would be able to be present at all hearings and motions and have the right to argue and brief procedural and substantive matters, including final briefing. With these restrictions, the Commission voted to grant intervention to SDTA.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Petition to Intervene of SDTA is hereby granted, subject to the restrictions as agreed to by SDTA and Sprint.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 20th day of December, 2006.

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: Delaine Kolbe

Date: 12/20/06

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Steve Kolbeck
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner