

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF WEST)	ORDER APPROVING
RIVER COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE)	STIPULATION FOR
COMPANY FOR ARBITRATION PURSUANT TO)	AMENDED SCHEDULING
THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996)	ORDER AND DECISION
TO RESOLVE ISSUES RELATING TO AN)	DATE
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT WITH)	
ALLTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)	TC07-116

On October 19, 2007, West River Cooperative Telephone Company (West River) filed a petition for arbitration of certain unresolved terms and conditions of a proposed Interconnection Agreement between West River and Alltel Communications, Inc. (Alltel), pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, SDCL 49-31-81, and ARSD 20:10:32:29. West River filed a list of unresolved issues consisting of:

- (1) Is the reciprocal compensation rate for IntraMTA Traffic proposed by West River appropriate pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 252(d)(2)?
- (2) What is the appropriate Percent InterMTA Use factor to be applied to non-IntraMTA traffic exchanged between the parties?
- (3) What is the appropriate manner by which the minutes of use of IntraMTA Traffic terminated by the parties, one to the other, should be calculated and billed?
- (4) What is the obligation of the parties with respect to dial parity?
- (5) What is the appropriate effective date and term of the Agreement?

West River requests the following relief:

- A. Issuance of an Order requiring arbitration of any and all unresolved Issues between West River and WWC;
- B. Issuance of an Order directing West River and Alltel to submit to this Commission for approval an interconnection agreement reflecting:
 - (i) the agreed-upon language in Exhibit A, and
 - (ii) the resolution of any unresolved issues in accordance with the positions and recommendations made by West River as set forth herein at the arbitration hearing to be scheduled by this Commission;
- C. Issuance of an Order directing the parties to pay interim compensation for transport and termination of telecommunications traffic from January 1, 2007 (the Effective Date set forth in Exhibit A) to the date on which the Commission approves the parties' executed interconnection agreement in accordance with Section 252(e) of the Act;
- D. Issuance of an Order asserting this Commission jurisdiction over this arbitration until the parties have submitted an executed interconnection agreement for approval by this Commission in accordance with Section 252(e) of the Act; and
- E. Any other, further and different relief as the nature of this matter may require or as may be just, equitable and proper to this Commission.

In accordance with ARSD 20:10:32:30, a non-petitioning party may respond to the petition for arbitration and provide additional information within 25 days after the Commission receives the petition.

On November 13, 2007, the Commission received a Response of Alltel Communications, Inc. to Petition for Arbitration of West River Cooperative Telephone Company. Alltel included two additional issues for resolution:

(6) What is the appropriate definition of intraMTA and interMTA traffic?

(7) Which party can initiate a direct interconnection request?

On November 26, 2007, the Commission received a Proposed Scheduling Order from West River. On November 28, 2007, the Commission received a Proposed Scheduling Order Response from Alltel. On December 17, 2007, the Commission received a Stipulation for Scheduling Order and Stipulation and Confidentiality Agreement signed by the parties.

At its January 29, 2008, meeting, the Commission considered the assessment of filing fees and the Stipulation for Scheduling Order. The Commission voted to require the parties to make a deposit not to exceed \$75,000, pursuant to SDCL 49-31-44, and approved the Stipulation and Scheduling Order.

On March 17, 2008, the Commission received Alltel's Motion to Compel Responses to Discovery Requests. On March 24, 2008, the Commission received a Response to Motion to Compel and Postpone Deadlines and a Motion to Extend Deadline for Filing of Direct Testimony from West River.

At its March 25, 2008, meeting, the Commission considered the Motion to Compel Responses to Discovery Requests. After listening to the arguments of the parties, the Commission voted to grant the motion (Chairman Hanson, dissenting). The Commission found that the discovery requested appeared reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. The Commission directed Staff to work with the parties regarding possible revisions to the procedural schedule. On May 20, 2008, the Commission received an Extension Agreement signed by the parties extending the Commission's decision date. On June 10, 2008, the Commission received a Stipulation for Amended Scheduling Order and Decision Date signed by the parties.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-31, including 49-31-3 and 49-31-81, and 47 U.S.C. Sections 251 and 252. The Commission may rely upon any or all of these or other laws of this state in making its determination.

At its July 8, 2008, meeting, the Commission considered the Stipulation for Amended Scheduling Order and Decision Date. Commission Staff recommended approval. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the Stipulation for Amended Scheduling Order and Decision Date.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Stipulation for Amended Scheduling Order and Decision Date is hereby approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 16th day of July, 2008.

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, electronically..

By: *Helaine Kolbe*

Date: *7/16/08*

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Steve Kolbeck
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner