

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)	ORDER GRANTING
SSTELECOM, INC. FOR AN EXTENSION OF)	INTERVENTION; ORDER
AN EXEMPTION FROM DEVELOPING)	GRANTING MOTION FOR
COMPANY SPECIFIC COST-BASED)	TEMPORARY APPROVAL
SWITCHED ACCESS RATES)	OF SWITCHED ACCESS
)	RATE
)	
)	
)	TC09-014

On April 3, 2009, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a request from SSTELECOM, Inc. (SSTELECOM) for approval of an extension of its current exemption from developing company specific cost-based switched access rates and further requests that the Commission approve the rate set forth in its current Switched Access Tariff No. 1 for the duration of the extension period.

On April 9, 2009, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 24, 2009, to interested individuals and entities. Midcontinent Communications (Midcontinent) filed to intervene on April 13, 2009. On April 17, 2009, the Commission received an Objection to Midcontinent's Petition to Intervene from SSTELECOM. On April 20, 2009, the Commission received a Reply to SSTELECOM's Objection to its Intervention from Midcontinent. On April 29, 2009, the Commission received a Motion for Temporary Approval of Switched Access Rate from SSTELECOM.

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

At a regularly scheduled meeting of May 5, 2009, the Commission found that the Petition to Intervene was timely filed and demonstrated good cause to grant intervention and voted unanimously to grant intervention to Midcontinent. The Commission considered the Motion for Temporary Approval of Switched Access Rate. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Motion for Temporary Approval of Switched Access Rate, with the current rate remaining in effect. The Commission further finds that the Access Rate Settlement Stipulation that froze SSTELECOM's rate at its current level expressly provided that following the expiration of the rate freeze, SSTELECOM could request another extension. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Petition to Intervene of Midcontinent is hereby granted. It is further

ORDERED, that the Motion for Temporary Approval of Switched Access Rate is granted, with the current rate remaining in effect.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 8th day of May, 2009.

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>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.</p> <p>By: <u><i>Mildred Kolbo</i></u></p> <p>Date: <u>5/8/09</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

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

Steve Kolbeck
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner