

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)	ORDER GRANTING
NORTHERN VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS,)	INTERVENTION; ORDER
L.L.C. FOR AN EXTENSION OF AN)	GRANTING REQUEST FOR
EXEMPTION FROM DEVELOPING COMPANY)	TEMPORARY APPROVAL
SPECIFIC COST-BASED SWITCHED ACCESS)	OF SWITCHED ACCESS
RATES)	RATES
)	TC09-031

On May 21, 2009, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a request from Northern Valley Communications, L.L.C. (Northern Valley) requesting an extension of its exemption from filing a switched access cost study for a period of three months after the effective date of the new rules adopted by the Commission in RM05-002. NVC further requested the Commission approve the rate set forth in its current Switched Access Tariff No. 1 for the duration of the extension period.

On May 28, 2009, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 8, 2009, to interested individuals and entities. Midcontinent Communications (Midcontinent) filed to intervene on June 3, 2009. On June 4, 2009, the Commission received a Motion to Deny Petition for Extension and for Evidentiary Hearing from Midcontinent and a Request for Temporary Approval of Switched Access Rates from Northern Valley. Qwest Communications Company, LLC (Qwest) filed to intervene on June 17, 2009. On June 18, 2009, the Commission received a Motion for Uniformity in Switched Access Rates and for Evidentiary Hearing from Midcontinent. On June 19, 2009, the Commission received an Objection to Qwest's Petition for Leave to Intervene and an Objection to Midcontinent's Motion to Intervene from Northern Valley.

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 June 23, 2009, the Commission found that the Petition to Intervene of Midcontinent was timely filed and demonstrated good cause to grant intervention and voted unanimously to grant intervention to Midcontinent. The Commission also found that the Petition for Leave to Intervene of Qwest demonstrated good cause to grant intervention and voted unanimously to grant intervention to Qwest. The Commission considered the Request for Temporary Approval of Switched Access Rates. Commission Staff recommended approval. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Request for Temporary Approval of Switched Access Rates, with the current rate remaining in effect. The Commission further finds that the Access Rate Settlement Stipulation that froze Northern Valley's rate at its current level expressly provided that following the expiration of the rate freeze, Northern Valley could request another extension. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Petitions to Intervene of Midcontinent and Qwest are hereby granted. It is further

ORDERED, that the Request for Temporary Approval of Switched Access Rates is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 30th day of June, 2009.

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: *Deldine Kolbo*

Date: *7/1/09*

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

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

Steve Kolbeck
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner