

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF SANTEL )  
COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, INC. FOR )  
ARBITRATION PURSUANT TO THE )  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996 TO )  
RESOLVE ISSUES RELATING TO AN )  
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT WITH )  
ALLTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC. )**

**ORDER DISMISSING AND  
CLOSING THE DOCKET**

**TC07-115**

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

- (1) Is the reciprocal compensation rate for IntraMTA Traffic proposed by Santel 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 dialing parity?
- (5) What is the appropriate effective date and term of the Agreement?

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 Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc. 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?

A hearing on this matter was held July 29, 2008 through July 31, 2008. Briefs were subsequently filed by the parties. On November 14, 2008, the Commission received a Stipulation to Supplement Record of Consolidated Arbitration Hearing signed by the parties. At its regularly scheduled meeting of November 25, 2008, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the Stipulation to Supplement Record of Consolidated Arbitration Hearing. At its January 27, 2009, meeting, the Commission decided the unresolved issues as presented by the parties. On February 27, 2009, the Commission issued its Findings of Fact; Conclusions of Law; Notice of Entry of Order. In its order, the Commission decided all of the issues except for the first issue regarding the reciprocal compensation rate for intraMTA traffic. The Commission required Santel to revise and refile its cost study reflecting the following: (1) the elimination of the costs associated with the Web-Self Care system, including the Web Self-Care License and Web Self-Care system-non-NEVS, the CALEA license, and the Centrex license; (2) the use of a rate equivalency method basis of cost assignment for transport costs; and (3) a new forecasted demand.

On March 30, 2009, the Commission received a Petition for Reconsideration from Alltel. On April 14, 2009, the Commission received Petitioner's Opposition to Alltel's Petition for Reconsideration. At its May 19, 2009, meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to deny the Petition for Reconsideration. Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:29, the Commission found Alltel failed to provide sufficient reasons for granting reconsideration.

On June 9, 2009, the Commission received a Motion to Compel from Alltel. On June 12, 2009, the Commission received a Stipulation for Amended Scheduling Order signed by the parties. At its June 23, 2009, meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Stipulation for Amended Scheduling Order. On July 13, 2009, the Commission received a Response to Alltel's Motion to Compel from Santel. At its July 14, 2009, meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to grant the Motion to Compel in part as it related to cost information for CALEA, Centrex and Web Self-Care, that such information shall be handled confidentially, and that Santel work with the vendors to make sure that Alltel receives the information it needs.

The second hearing was held as scheduled on August 3, 2009. The issue to be determined by the Commission concerned the appropriate reciprocal compensation rate for intraMTA traffic.

Following the hearing, the parties submitted briefs. Oral arguments were heard by the Commission on November 24, 2009. On January 5, 2010, the Commission voted unanimously to find the following: (1) Santel correctly eliminated the costs associated with the Web-Self Care system, including the Web SelfCare License and Web Self-Care system-non-NEVS, the CALEA license, and the Centrex license; (2) accepted Alltel's revisions to Santel's latest cost study reflecting a forecasted demand with the demand levelized over the seven year forecast period for transport electronics costs; (3) accepted Alltel's revisions to transport outside plant demand by projecting demand of 12 fibers in service for a 24-fiber cable; (4) adopted a rate equivalency method whereby a voice trunk is considered equivalent to a DS-O special circuit for 15% of the total number of voice trunks with the remaining 85% of voice trunks treated consistent with Alltel's version of the rate equivalency method; and (5) rejected Alltel's request to exclude the switch processor costs.

On February 16, 2010, the Commission received an Application for Reconsideration and Brief in Support of the Application to Reconsider from Santel. On March 17, 2010, the Commission received Resistance to the Petitioner's Application for Reconsideration from Alltel. At its regularly scheduled meeting of March 23, 2010, the Commission heard oral arguments from the parties regarding the Application for Reconsideration. The Commission voted unanimously to defer action until the next Commission meeting. At its regularly scheduled meeting of April 6, 2010, the Commission voted unanimously to deny the Application for Reconsideration. Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:29, the Commission found Santel failed to provide sufficient reasons for granting reconsideration.

On July 2, 2012, Santel filed a request to close the docket. Santel stated that prior to the finalization of interconnection agreements between the parties Alltel was acquired by MCI Communications Services, Inc. dba Verizon. New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T Mobility thereafter acquired certain of Alltel's assets in South Dakota and took over negotiations of the interconnection agreement not yet finalized between Alltel and Santel. Since that time, Santel has continued to work with AT&T on the finalization of issues related to the interconnection agreement and has implemented interim working arrangements pending finalization. Alltel has not been a party to these discussions and will not be a party to the interconnection agreement. As such, Santel believes the docket is moot and may be closed at this time.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of July 3, 2012, the Commission voted unanimously to dismiss and close the docket. 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. It is therefore ORDERED, that the docket shall be dismissed and closed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2012.

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| <b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>  |                 |
| 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>Joy King</u> |
| Date:  | <u>7/10/12</u>  |
| (OFFICIAL SEAL)  |                 |

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Eiegen  
KRISTIE EIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner