

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY)
QWEST CORPORATION DBA CENTURYLINK)
QC FOR APPROVAL OF WAIVER OF)
SWITCHED ACCESS COST STUDY)**

**ORDER GRANTING)
WAIVER; ORDER DIRECTING)
REVIEW OF SWITCHED)
ACCESS RULES)**

TC20-001

On January 28, 2020, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application by Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC (CenturyLink) for approval of a waiver of the requirement to perform a switched access cost study pursuant to ARSD 20:10:27:02. ARSD 20:10:27:07 requires that a carrier's carrier submit cost data in support of its switched access service tariff no less than once every three years. ARSD 20:10:27:02 provides that the Commission, for good cause shown, may either on its own motion or by application from a carrier's carrier, temporarily waive or suspend any rule in chapter 20:10:27. CenturyLink requests a waiver of the cost study requirement because (1) many access rates are limited by the federal ruling in the USF/ICC Transformation Order; (2) producing such a study is costly and consumes a great deal of resources; (3) CenturyLink does not intend to increase access rates at this time; and (4) preliminary analysis based on past studies indicates that a cost study would likely justify higher rates than those from the last submitted study.

On January 30, 2020, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of February 14, 2020, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On March 9, 2020, CenturyLink responded to Commission staff's data requests.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-31 and ARSD 20:10:27:02 and 20:10:27:07.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of March 17, 2020, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended granting CenturyLink's request for a waiver until such time as the Commission orders otherwise. The Commission found good cause to grant the requested waiver. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the request for a waiver of the switched access rule until such time as the Commission orders otherwise and the Commission directed Commission staff to review the entire issue in light of a future rulemaking. It is therefore

ORDERED, that CenturyLink's request for a waiver, pursuant to ARSD 20:10:27:02, of the requirement to perform a switched access cost study is hereby granted until such time as the Commission orders otherwise. It is further

ORDERED, that Commission staff is directed to review the entire switched access issue in light of a future rulemaking.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 23rd day of March 2020.

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 or by mail.
By: <u>Karen E. Cramer</u>
Date: March 23, 2020
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner