

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )</b>		
<b>OF STANDARD TANDEM, LLC FOR A )</b>		<b>TC19-048</b>
<b>CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO )</b>		<b>JOINT STIPULATION OF PARTIES</b>
<b>PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE AND )</b>		
<b>INTEREXCHANGE LONG DISTANCE )</b>		
<b>SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA )</b>		

Come now, the parties in the above-entitled action, David Erickson, President of Standard Tandem, LLC, ("Standard Tandem") and Richard Coit, counsel for Intervenor South Dakota Telecommunications Association ("SDTA"), and hereby submit this Joint Stipulation to the Commission:

1. SDTA has agreed to the issuance of Standard Tandem's requested Certificates of Authority provided any final Order issued in this matter granting the Certificates of Authority incorporates the following language agreed to by the parties:

The parties agree any certificate of authority granted by this Commission to Standard Tandem for local exchange services shall not extend to rural telephone company service areas. Standard Tandem agrees that it will not provide "telephone exchange services" including "exchange access services" as defined under 47 U.S.C. § 153 directly to end user residential and/or business customer locations found within existing rural telephone company service areas. With respect to rural telephone company service areas, the local exchange services excluded from Commission certification will include the direct provisioning of: telephone exchange services, switched access services, and special access or dedicated transmission services.

In addition, the Commission's Order related to Standard Tandem's request for local service authority shall provide that Standard Tandem would have to come before the Commission in another proceeding before being able to provide any local exchange telecommunications services directly to residential

or business end user customer locations within rural telephone company service areas. In such subsequent proceeding, the provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 253(f), SDCL § 49-31-73, and the Commission's administrative rules, which allow the Commission to require a company that seeks to provide service in a rural service area to meet the requirements in 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1) for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier, would apply.

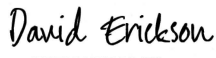
In addition, Standard Tandem agrees that the offering of its service in South Dakota will not require it to request interconnection from any rural telephone company in South Dakota and, further, agrees that the granting of authority to Standard Tandem to offer its services will not affect the exemptions, suspensions, and modification provisions applicable to rural telephone companies found in 47 U.S.C. § 251(f).

Also, in recognition of the centralized equal access configuration in South Dakota, Standard Tandem agrees to deliver all interexchange traffic terminating to any customers of SDN's member company ILECs via the SDN tandem switch in Sioux Falls (pursuant to the FCC's Report and Order and Modification of Section 214 Authorizations, in WC Docket No. 18-155, released September 27, 2019, this mandatory use requirement does not apply to interexchange terminating traffic that is bound for any LEC(s) that is engaged in "access stimulation" under the FCC's administrative rules).

2. With the execution and filing of this Joint Stipulation, the parties request that the Commission proceed with issuance of the requested Certificates of Authority subject to

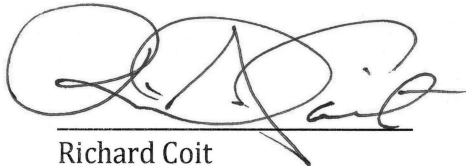
the parties agreed upon limitations.

Dated this 10/6/2020 day of September, 2020.

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Dated this 25th day of September, 2020.



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