BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR TRI-COUNTY TELCOM, INC.	))))	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO INTERVENE TC96-114

On June 28, 1996, Tri-County Telcom, Inc. (Tri-County) filed for approval by the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) its 1995 Intrastate Switched Access Cost Study.

On July 3, 1996, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 19, 1996, to interested individuals and entities. On July 18, 1996, the Commission received a Petition for Leave to Intervene from U S WEST Communications (U S WEST). U S WEST stated that it is the largest purchaser of switched access from local exchange carriers and it believes that intervention should be granted due to the pecuniary interests involved.

On July 30, 1996, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 1-26-17.1, 49-31-18, 49-31-19 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02, 20:10:01:15.05, 20:10:27:07 and 20:10:27:14.

The Commission found that U S WEST's Petition to Intervene was timely filed and demonstrates good cause to grant intervention. It is therefore

ORDERED that U S WEST's Petition to Intervene is granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 6th day of August, 1996.

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By: Melanie Kobbe

Date: 8/7/96

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

KENNETH STOFFERAHN, Chairman

JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner