

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

IN THE MATTER OF UNAUTHORIZED LONG)	ORDER APPROVING
DISTANCE CHANGES AND UNAUTHORIZED)	CONSENT ORDER AND
TELEPHONE CHARGES MADE BY REDUCED)	CLOSING DOCKET
RATE LONG DISTANCE, LLC)	TC07-107

On October 5, 2007, the staff (Staff) of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) filed a Motion for Order to Show Cause (Motion) against Reduced Rate Long Distance, LLC (Reduced Rate). The Motion alleged that as early as 2005, the Commission's Consumer Affairs Division (Consumer Affairs) began receiving complaints regarding alleged misrepresentations by Reduced Rate that resulted in changes to subscribers' telecommunications service providers or added products or services to subscribers' bills without express authority from the subscribers in violation of SDCL 49-31-89 and ARSD 20:10:34:06. The Motion further alleges that to date, Consumer Affairs has collected 22 such complaints.

On October 10, 2007, the Commission received a Petition to Intervene from Midcontinent Communications (Midcontinent). On October 23, 2007, the Commission received a Notice of Appearance of counsel for Reduced Rate.

At its regular meeting on December 18, 2007, the Commission considered the Motion and Petition to Intervene. After hearing argument from counsel for Staff and Reduced Rate, the Commission found sufficient cause was demonstrated to issue an order to show cause and voted unanimously to issue an Order to Show Cause against Reduced Rate on the issues raised by the Motion. The Commission also voted unanimously to grant intervention to Midcontinent.

On December 27, 2007, the Commission received a Petition to Intervene from PrairieWave Black Hills, LLC and PrairieWave Telecommunications, Inc. (together, PrairieWave). At its regular meeting on January 15, 2008, the Commission voted unanimously to grant intervention to PrairieWave. By order dated May 8, 2008, the hearings in this matter were scheduled for May 20-21, 2008, June 25, 2008 and July 1, 2008. The Commission was advised by Commission Staff that the parties had reached an agreement in this matter so by order dated May 15, 2008, the hearings were cancelled. On May 20, 2008, the Commission received a Petition to Withdraw from Knology of the Plains, Inc. and Knology of the Black Hills, LLC f/k/a as PrairieWave Black Hills, LLC and PrairieWave Telecommunications, Inc. At its ad hoc meeting on May 28, 2008, the Commission granted the Petition to Withdraw. On August 8, 2008, the Commission received a Consent Order signed by the parties.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-89 through 49-31-97 and ARSD Chapter 20:10:34

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 9, 2008, the Commission considered the Consent Order. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Consent Order and to close the docket. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Consent Order is hereby approved and incorporated in this Order by reference and the docket shall be closed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 15th day of September, 2008.

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: <u>Alaine Kolbo</u>
Date: <u>9/16/08</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Steve Kolbeck
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner