

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPROVAL OF A)
WIRELINE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT)
BETWEEN MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS)
AND VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS)
COOPERATIVE)**

**ORDER APPROVING
AGREEMENT

TC16-004**

On March 8, 2016, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing pursuant to 47 USC § 252 for approval of a wireline interconnection agreement between Midcontinent Communications (Midcontinent) and Venture Communications Cooperative (Venture) for service areas as approved in a Stipulated Agreement between the parties in Midcontinent's COA Docket TC15-063.

On March 9, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing of the agreement to interested individuals and entities. The notice stated that any person wishing to comment on the parties' request for approval had until March 29, 2016, to do so. No comments were filed.

At its March 30, 2016, meeting, the Commission considered whether to approve the negotiated agreement between Midcontinent and Venture. Commission Staff recommended approval.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31 and the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. In accordance with 47 U.S.C § 252(e)(2), the Commission found that the agreement does not discriminate against a telecommunications carrier that is not a party to the agreement and the agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the agreement. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the Wireline Interconnection Agreement between Midcontinent and Venture.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 5th day of April, 2016.

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. Bremer</u>
Date: <u>04/05/16</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner