

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Midcontinent Communications/North Dakota
Telephone Company
Rural Exemption
Investigation**

Case No. PU-05-451

NOTICE OF THIRD PREHEARING CONFERENCE

December 6, 2005

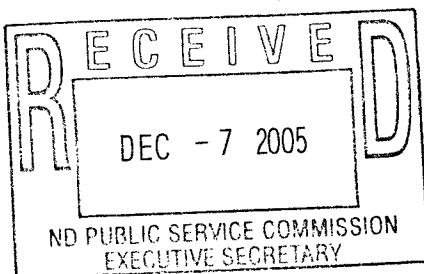
To: Patrick W. Durick, Pearce & Durick, and J. G. Harrington, Dow, Lohnes & Albertson, PLLC, counsel for Midcontinent Communications; Donald A. Negaard, Pringle & Herigstad, P.C., and Thomas A. Moorman, Kraskin, Moorman & Cosson, LLC, counsel for North Dakota Telephone Company; and William W. Binek, Chief Counsel, North Dakota Public Service Commission

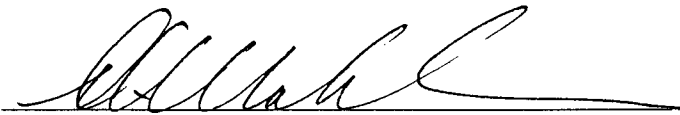
Please take notice that a prehearing conference will be held for this matter at 8:30 a.m. CST, December 9, 2005. The prehearing conference will be conducted by telephone conference initiated by the administrative law judge. Mr. Harrington and Mr. Moorman are requested to advise the administrative law judge not later than 5:00 p.m. CST, on December 8, 2005, if they will participate in the prehearing conference.

The purpose of the prehearing conference is to consider the request of North Dakota Telephone Company to establish a schedule for the completion of discovery and for filing of preheating testimony and exhibits for the hearing, and to consider a recommendation to the Commission for the scheduling of the hearing. The parties may also request a determination concerning any question or problem regarding preparation for or the conduct of the hearing.

Dated at Bismarck, North Dakota this 6th day of December, 2005.

State of North Dakota
Public Service Commission




Al Wahl, Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings
1707 North 9th Street
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501
Telephone: (701) 328-3260

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the **NOTICE OF THIRD PREHEARING CONFERENCE** was mailed, regular mail, on the 6 day of December, 2005, to:

Mr. Patrick W. Durick
Pearce & Durick
P.O. Box 400
Bismarck, ND 58502-0400

Mr. Don Negaard
Pringle & Herigstad, P.C.
P.O. Box 1000
Minot, ND 58702-1000

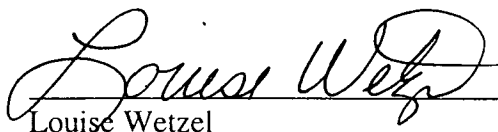
Mr. J. G. Harrington
Dow, Lohnes & Albertson, PLLC
1200 New Hampshire Avenue NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. Thomas J. Moorman
Kraskin, Moorman & Cosson, LLC
2120 L Street NW - Suite 520
Washington, DC 20037

and that a true and correct copy of the above document was mailed, inside mail, at the State Capitol on the 6 day of December, 2005, to:

Mr. William W. Binek
Chief Counsel
Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
Al Wahl, Administrative Law Judge


Louise Wetzel