

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Griggs County Telephone Co./Midcontinent
Communications
Interconnection Agreement
Application**

Case No. PU-16-686

ORDER ON INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

December 14, 2016

Griggs County Telephone Co. (Griggs) entered into an interconnection agreement with Midcontinent Communications, a South Dakota Partnership (Midcontinent) pursuant to Section 251 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Act). The agreement sets forth terms and conditions under which Griggs will provide network interconnection services for the exchange of local traffic, number portability, and ancillary services to Midcontinent in the Cooperstown, North Dakota exchange. The agreement was filed with the Commission on November 2, 2016.

This agreement was filed under Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Act requires that any agreement adopted by negotiation or arbitration be submitted for approval to the Commission. Griggs and Midcontinent request approval of the interconnection agreement at the earliest possible date and in less than 90 days.

Under 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A), the Commission may only reject an agreement adopted by negotiation (or a portion of the agreement) if it finds that:

1. the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier that was not a party to the agreement; or
2. implementation of the agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

In addition, under 47 U.S.C. Section 253 the Commission may include, in its review, state requirements that do not constitute barriers to entry.

Section 252(e)(4) of the Act requires that the Commission act to approve or reject an agreement adopted by negotiation within ninety (90) days after submission by the parties.

On November 8, 2016, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Comment providing until December 13, 2016, to receive written comments. No comments were received.

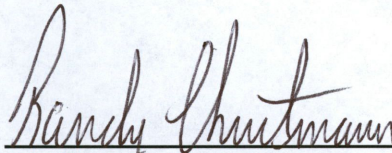
The Commission has reviewed the agreement and finds that it has not been shown to discriminate against a telecommunications carrier that was not a party to the agreement. The Commission further finds that implementation of the agreement has not been shown to be inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

Order

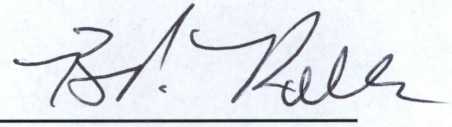
The Commission orders:

1. The interconnection agreement negotiated between Griggs County Telephone Co. and Midcontinent Communications, filed with the Commission on November 2, 2016, is APPROVED.
2. The Commission retains continuing jurisdiction over the agreement at all times.
3. Notice of any changes to the agreement must be filed promptly with the Commission.
4. The agreement must not be assigned, assumed or otherwise transferred without the approval of the Commission.
5. Each party to the agreement shall respond reasonably and in good faith to the other party's requests to implement the agreement.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Randy Christmann
Commissioner


Julie Fedorchak
Chairman


Brian P. Kalk
Commissioner