

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: SOUTH SLOPE COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY	DOCKET NO. RPU-07-1
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**ORDER GRANTING LIMITED EXTENSION OF TIME AND
REQUIRING TECHNICAL CONFERENCE**

(Issued May 25, 2007)

On May 2, 2007, the Utilities Board (Board) issued an order establishing a procedural schedule in this docket. As part of that procedural schedule, AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc., and TCG Omaha (collectively AT&T) and other intervenors were directed to file testimony on or before May 29, 2007. On May 15, 2007, AT&T filed a motion for an extension of time to file testimony in this proceeding. In support of its motion, AT&T states that South Slope Cooperative Telephone Company (South Slope) has not provided AT&T with an electronic working copy of South Slope's cost study, as requested in the Board's May 2, 2007, order, and that without an electronic copy of the cost study AT&T cannot adequately analyze the cost data submitted by South Slope by the May 29, 2007, deadline.

On May 18, 2007, South Slope filed a response to AT&T's request, stating that due to restrictions of the licensing agreements an electronic working copy of South Slope's cost study is not available for filing. South Slope proposes that in lieu of filing

an electronic working copy of its cost study or requiring AT&T to purchase from the vendor a copy of the software required to run the files, South Slope offers AT&T attorneys and analysts a "walk through" of the cost study via a conference call for the technical purposes of matching the input data to AT&T's software.

On May 23, 2007, AT&T filed a reply to South Slope's resistance to AT&T's motion. In its reply, AT&T states that it has obtained access to similarly licensed programs under protective agreements in other jurisdictions and that South Slope has refused to work with AT&T pursuant to their protective agreement. AT&T also states that it will not be given the necessary time to obtain proper discovery responses and access to the cost study, consider the material, and prepare testimony by the May 29, 2007, deadline.

Also on May 23, 2007, South Slope filed a response to AT&T's reply, generally repeating arguments South Slope has already made.

The Board agrees with AT&T insofar as there is not adequate time to obtain the requested information and prepare testimony by the May 29, 2007, deadline. However, the Board is also sensitive to the legal restrictions on South Slope's sharing of the software required to run its cost study. AT&T says it has obtained access to licensed programs in other jurisdictions, but it does not explain the details of those arrangements. Therefore, the Board will require the parties to hold a technical conference, as initially suggested by South Slope, for the purpose of allowing AT&T

attorneys and analysts to perform a "walk through" of South Slope's cost study and to discuss arrangements used by AT&T in other jurisdictions if the walk through is not adequate. This walk through should include, at minimum, the identification of the formulas as well as the specific data inputs for the study. The Board will also amend the procedural schedule to allow AT&T and any intervenors until June 11, 2007, to file testimony and consequently allow South Slope until June 25, 2007, to file any rebuttal testimony. The Board cautions that this amended schedule is not flexible and no other extensions will be given.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The "Motion for Extension of Time to File Testimony" filed by AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc., and TCG Omaha on May 15, 2007, is granted.
2. Interested parties are directed to participate in a technical conference for the purpose of analyzing the electronic working copy of the cost study submitted by South Slope Cooperative Telephone Company on or before June 1, 2007.
3. The procedural schedule in this docket is amended to reflect the following changes:
 - a. Iowa Telecommunications Services, Inc., d/b/a Iowa Telecom, AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc., and TCG Omaha, and any other intervenors shall file prepared direct testimony, with supporting exhibits and workpapers, on or before June 11, 2007.

b. South Slope Cooperative Telephone Company shall file rebuttal testimony, with supporting exhibits and workpapers, on or before June 25, 2007.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ John R. Norris

/s/ Curtis W. Stamp

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

/s/ Krista K. Tanner

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 25th day of May, 2007.