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PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

October 2, 2003

Robin McHugh, Chief Counsel
Legal Division
Montana Public Service Commission
1701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 202601
Helena MT 59620-2601

Re: DOCKET NO. D2003.8.105
Petition to Intervene
MITS (Montana Independent Telecommunications Systems)

Dear Robin:

Enclosed for filing are an original and ten copies of MITS' Petition to Intervene D2003.8.105 on behalf of our member companies.

Sincerely,

Kathlene M. Anderson, Administrative Assistant
MITS, LLC

Cc: Steve Vick
Public Service Commission
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

* * * * *

IN THE MATTER OF CABLE &)	UTILITY DIVISION
COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION,)	
dba MID-RIVERS CELLULAR,)	DOCKET NO. D2003.8.105
Petition for Designation as an Eligible)	
Telecommunications Carrier)	

PETITION TO INTERVENE
BY MONTANA INDEPENDENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

On behalf of itself and its members, Montana Independent Telecommunications Systems (MITS) hereby petitions for intervention in the above-captioned matter pursuant to 38.2.2403 A.R.M. MITS is located at Post Office Box 5237, Helena, MT 59604-5237. Michael C. Strand, MITS' General Counsel, will be representing MITS in this matter and is located at the same address.

MITS has a number of direct and substantial interests in this proceeding. Among them are precedents that may be established with respect to Public Service Commission (Commission) determinations of whether and in what manner Mid Rivers Cellular (MRC) offers the requisite supported services established by the FCC for ETC designation as well as any public interest analysis the Commission deems appropriate in the course of the proceeding. Such determinations may affect any future applications for ETC designation in the rural areas served by MITS' members. Further, all of MITS' current Montana members are already designated as ETCs and are interested in the potential impact of ETC designation for MRC on the size and continued viability of the federal universal service funding mechanisms and any possible state universal service funding mechanism.

The relief sought by MITS is to ensure that rural Montanans continue to receive universal service in the manner intended by Congress in the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 3rd day of October, 2003.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Strand", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Michael C. Strand
CEO and General Counsel
Montana Independent Telecommunications Systems