



Northwestern Bell

Rapid City, South Dakota  
September 18, 1972

Mr. Robb DeWall  
P. O. Box 1341  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Dear Mr. DeWall:

I have attached a memorandum we used for general flood inquiries which may be helpful in the preparation of your thesis. However, your question regarding the loss of telephone service at KOTA during the June flood causes some problems.

Basically, the KOTA telephone system is dependent on electrical power to provide a ringing current for the bells and to light the buttons on the telephone sets. It followed, then, that you would have been unable to determine that there were inward telephone calls. However, you would have been able to use the lines for out-going calls.

On that night, it was necessary to wait a minimum of several minutes for dial tone. Unless you did pick up the telephone and wait for a considerable length of time, it would be impossible to determine whether or not the telephone was actually out of order. Our records of the main cables which were affected by the flood do not indicate that the cable serving KOTA was affected. Regardless, we did put your station on a priority dial tone group the next day in order to insure the radio station of vital communication facilities.

I would be happy to discuss this in more detail and answer any other questions which you might have at your convenience.

Yours truly,

Harlan A. Schmidt  
District Manager

Attachment