

TC97-194

KC/HB

TC97-194

DOCKET NO.

In the Matter of

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U
S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR
APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO ITS
EXCHANGE AND NETWORK
SERVICES TARIFF AND EXCHANGE
AND NETWORK SERVICES CATALOG

Public Utilities Commission of the State of South Dakota

DATE

MEMORANDA

DATE	MEMORANDA
12/17/97	Filed and Scheduled;
12/18/97	TC Fee Filing;
2/13/98	Order Approving Tariff Revisions;
2/13/98	Docket Closed

TC97-194

125 South Dakota Avenue, 8th Floor
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57194

USWEST
COMMUNICATIONS ©

December 16, 1997

Mr. William Bullard, Executive Director
Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol Building
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

RECEIVED
DEC 17 1997
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Bullard:

U S WEST Communications has attached for filing with the Commission the following pages from our Exchange and Network Services Tariff:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Release</u>
1	5	2
1	12	3
1	14	5
2	22	2
5	Index 1	3
5	Index 2	4
5	66	3
5	67	2
5	68	2

This filing eliminates the South Dakota Telephone Assistance and Link-Up programs, effective January 1, 1998, consistent with the Commission Order in Docket TC97-150. This filing also includes the FCC Lifeline program which will begin January 1, 1998. Changes have been made to the eligibility criteria for both the Telephone Assistance Plan and Link-Up Plans, as well as a change in the credit the customer receives.

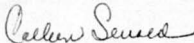
Also, attached is the following page from our Exchange and Network Services Catalog which adds language regarding Toll Restriction for Lifeline customers:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Release</u>
10	4	2

This catalog page is included as a complimentary notification to the Commission.

We would appreciate acknowledgment of receipt of this filing. A duplicate copy of this letter is attached for your convenience.

Sincerely,



Colleen E. Sebold
Manager-Regulatory Affairs

Attachment

TELECOMMUNICATIONS NEW SERVICES CLASSIFICATION FILING

- 1) Requested Classification: Non-Competitive
 Emerging Competitive
 Fully Competitive

- 2) This service will be offered: Intrastate, IntraLATA
 Intrastate, InterLATA
 Interstate

- 3) Detailed Description of Service: This filing eliminates the State Lifeline program and initiates the FCC program.

- 4) Reason for Change: Per Commission order in Docket TC97-150.

- 5) Basis for Rates: FCC ordered.

- 6) Quantification of Customer Impact: Affects all customers who apply.

- 7) Proposed Effective Date: January 1, 1998

U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
Exchange and Network
Services Tariff

SECTION 1
Page 5
Release 2
Effective: 1

State of South Dakota
Issued: 12-16-97

1. APPLICATION AND REFERENCE

1.2 TABLE OF CONTENTS (Cont'd)

	PAGE
SECTION 5. EXCHANGE SERVICES	
5.1 EXCHANGE AREAS	1
5.1.1 EXCHANGES AND THEIR EXTENDED AREA SERVICE (EAS) POINTS	1
5.1.2 EXCHANGE AREA RATE GROUPS	17
5.1.6 LOCAL SERVICE INCREMENTS	19
5.1.8 BORDER EXCHANGES	23
5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE	37
5.2.1 MEASURED SERVICE	40
5.2.4 FLAT RATE SERVICE	55
5.2.5 LOCAL SERVICE OPTIONS	58
5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS	66
5.3 PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE (PBX) TRUNKS	69
5.3.1 MEASURED RATE TRUNKS	69
5.3.3 FLAT RATE TRUNKS	70
5.3.6 NETWORK ACCESS REGISTER (NAR)	85
5.4 PREMIUM EXCHANGE SERVICES	86
5.4.2 TOUCH-TONE CALLING SERVICE	86
5.4.5 DATA CONDITIONING	90

U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
Exchange and Network
Services Tariff

SECTION 1
Page 12
Release 3
Effective:]

State of South Dakota
Issued: 12-16-97

I. APPLICATION AND REFERENCE

1.3 SUBJECT INDEX (Cont'd)

	SECTION	
Late Payment Charge	2	
Liability of the Company	2	
Lifeline Assistance.....	5	(N)
Limitation On Use.....	2	
Limitations	2	
Link-Up.....	5	(T)
Local Exchange Service.....	5	
Obsolete	105	
Local Service Increments	5	
Local Service Increments	105	
Local Service Options	5	
Obsolete	105	
Look Up Service	6	(D)
Measured Rate Trunks	5	
Measured Service	5	
Measured Service and Hourly Usage Package Service Billing Options ...	5	
Message Telecommunications Service	6	
Mileage Charges	10	
Obsolete	110	
Miscellaneous Nonrecurring Charges	3	
Miscellaneous Service Offerings	10	
Obsolete	110	
Miscellaneous Switched Digital Service Offerings	15	
Network Access Register (NAR)	5	
Nonrecurring Charges.....	3	
Obligation to Furnish Service	2	
Operator Services	5	
Operator Verification/Interrupt Service.....	6	

U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
Exchange and Network
Services Tariff

SECTION I
Page 14
Release 5
Effective:]

State of South Dakota
Issued: 12-16-97

I. APPLICATION AND REFERENCE

1.3 SUBJECT INDEX (Cont'd)

	SECTION	
Telecommunications Surtax For Communication-Impaired Persons	2	
Telephone Answering Bureau Service	9	
Telephone Assistance Programs	5	(T)
Temporary Suspension And Restoral Of Service - Customer Initiated (Vacation Service)	2	
Termination Liability/Waiver Policy	2	
Termination Of Service - Company Initiated	2	
Termination Of Service	2	
Today's Trouble Today	3	
Toll Restriction Services	10	
Touch-Tone Calling Service	5	
Transfer of Service Between Customers	2	
Transmission of Messages	2	
Uniform Access Solution Service	15	
Universal Emergency Number Service - 911	9	
Unusual Installations	4	
Use of Service	2	
Value Pac	5	

U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
Exchange and Network
Services Tariff

SECTION 2
Page 22
Release 2
Effective:]

State of South Dakota
Issued: 12-16-97

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS - CONDITIONS OF OFFERING

2.3 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES (Cont'd)

2.3.3 ADVANCE PAYMENTS AND DEPOSITS

1. Except as hereinafter provided, applicants for service are required to pay in advance, at the time the application is made, any Nonrecurring Charges or Installation Charges applicable, and to pay the charges for one billing period for exchange service and facilities ordered.
2. The Company may, in order to safeguard its interest, require an applicant to make suitable deposit to be held as a guarantee of the payment of charges. In addition, an existing customer may be required to make a deposit or to increase a deposit presently held in cases where their credit, in the judgment of the Company, becomes impaired. The fact that a deposit has been made in no way relieves the applicant or customer from complying with the Company's regulations as to advance payments and the prompt payment of bills on presentation. At such time as the contract is terminated, the amount of the deposit is credited to the customer's account and any credit balance which may remain is refunded. At the option of the Company, such deposit may be refunded or credited to the customer at any time prior to termination of the contract. In case of a cash deposit, simple interest at 7% is paid for the period during which the deposit is held by the Company.

The Company may refuse an application for service made by a present or former customer who is indebted to the Company for the same class (Residence or Business) of service previously furnished, in the state of South Dakota, until the indebtedness is satisfied. In the event that service is connected for a customer who is indebted to the Company for the same class of service previously furnished such customer, the service may be terminated by the Company unless the customer satisfies the indebtedness within 10 days after written notification.

3. Where charges for construction apply, such charges are collected in advance if circumstances make that advisable in order to safeguard the Company's revenue. In such cases, and in cases where installation charges are based on the cost of labor and material required, any advance payments are estimated and any adjustments which may be necessary are made when the work is completed.
4. Advance payments are not required for service furnished customers whose financial responsibility is a matter of general knowledge. This also applies to Federal, State, County and Municipal governments.
5. Qualifying applicants for the Lifeline Assistance Plan may initiate service without paying a deposit if they voluntarily elect to have Toll Restriction on their line. Toll Restriction will be provided at no charge to qualifying Lifeline Assistance customers.

(N)
|
(N)

U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
Exchange and Network
Services Tariff

SECTION 5
Index Page 1
Release 3
Effective:]

State of South Dakota
Issued: 12-16-97

5. EXCHANGE SERVICES

SUBJECT	PAGE	
Application of Business and Residence Rates	37	
Border Exchanges	23	
Budget Pac (Residence)	40	
Concession Service	96	
Data Conditioning	90	
Directory Listings	97	
Directory Services	97	
Dormitory Communication Service	61	
Employee Telephone Service	96	
Exchange Area Rate Groups	17	
Exchange Areas	1	
Exchanges and Their Extended Area Service (EAS) Points	1	
Extended Calling Plan	19	
Extension Service	64	
Flat Rate Service	55	
Flat Rate Trunks	70	
Hearing or Speech Impairment Discount	52	
Hourly Usage Package Service (Residence)	45	
Hunting	58	
Incoming Lines and Trunks	65	
Intercept Services	100	
Lifeline Assistance	66	(N)
Link-Up	68	(T)
Local Exchange Service	37	
Local Service Increments	19	
Local Service Options	58	(D)

U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
Exchange and Network
Services Tariff

SECTION 5
Index Page 2
Release 4
Effective:]

State of South Dakota
Issued: 12-16-97

5. EXCHANGE SERVICES

SUBJECT	PAGE	
Measured Rate Trunks	69	
Measured Service	40	
Measured Service and Hourly Usage Package Service Billing Options	53	
Network Access Register (NAR)	85	
Operator Services	100	
Premium Exchange Services	86	
Private Branch Exchange (PBX) Trunks	69	
Public Access Line Service	92	
Public Communications Service - Coin and Coinless	92	
Public Response Calling Service	59	
Rate Stabilized Flat PBX Trunk.....	71	
Residence Individual Auxiliary Lines	39	
Rotary Service	58	
Shared Use Service	103	
STAND-BY Line Service.....	65.1	
Telephone Assistance Programs	66	(T)
Touch-Tone Calling Service	86	
Value Pac	48	

U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Exchange and Network
Services Tariff

SECTION 5

Page 66

Release 3

Effective: 1

State of South Dakota

Issued: 12-16-97

5. EXCHANGE SERVICES

5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE (Cont'd)

5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

A. Lifeline Assistance

1. Description

The Lifeline Assistance Plan (Lifeline) assists qualified low-income applicants with reductions in their monthly local exchange service rate. The assistance applies for a single telephone line at the applicant's principal place of residence.

2. Eligibility Requirements

- a. To be eligible for assistance, an applicant must participate in one of the following:

- Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, state supplemental assistance)
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal public housing assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LHEAP)

3. Terms and Conditions

- a. An applicant may request telephone assistance through completion of a form provided by the Company.

- b. The Lifeline credit will apply to the following Local Exchange Service:

- Residence One-Party Flat Rate Service
- Residence One-Party Local Measured Service
- Residence Multiparty Flat Rate Service
- Hourly Usage Package Service

(T)

(C)

(C)

(N)

(N)

(T)

U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
Exchange and Network
Services Tariff

SECTION 5
Page 67
Release 2
Effective: 1

State of South Dakota
Issued: 12-16-97

5. EXCHANGE SERVICES

5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE (T)

5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (D)

A.3. (Cont'd) (T)

- c. The Lifeline Assistance Plan credit will begin with the first billing date after the Company is notified by applicants who qualify for benefits or when new service is established by a qualifying customer. (T)
- d. Nonrecurring charges will not apply to establish this program on existing service. (T)
- e. This credit shall apply only to a customer's principal residence line. (T)

4. Credit (T)

	USOC	MONTHLY CREDIT[1]	
• Lifeline Assistance Plan Credit	ASGFX	\$5.25	(C)

[1] The total monthly credit consists of the \$3.50 baseline FCC Lifeline support and an additional \$1.75 FCC Lifeline support. (C)

U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
Exchange and Network
Services Tariff

SECTION 5
Page 68
Release 2
Effective:]

State of South Dakota
Issued: 12-16-97

5. EXCHANGE SERVICES

5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE
5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (Cont'd)

B. Link-Up

1. South Dakota residents who are participating in one of the eligible programs listed below may also qualify for the FCC's Link Up Program. A 50% discount (USOC LNK) up to \$30.00 will be applied to access line nonrecurring charges to connect service at a new address. This discount applies only on a single line at the principal place of residence for the applicant.
2. The consumer shall receive the benefit of the Link Up program for a second or subsequent time only for a principal place of residence with an address different from the residence address at which Link Up assistance was provided previously.
3. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for assistance, an applicant must participate in one of the following:

- Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, state supplemental assistance)
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal public housing assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LHEAP)

4. Application for Assistance

An applicant shall request telephone connection assistance through completion of a form provided by the Company.

5. Deferred Payments

An applicant may defer payment of the service connection charges. Payments may be deferred up to 12 months with a payment schedule of equal payments of up to \$200.00 assessed for commencing service. Interest will not be charged on deferred payments.

(T)

(T)

(T)

(T)

(C)

(C)

(N)

(N)

U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
Exchange and Network
Services Catalog

SECTION 10

Page 4

Release 2

Effective:]

State of South Dakota
Issued: 12-16-97

10. MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE OFFERINGS

10.4 TOLL RESTRICTION SERVICE (Cont'd)

10.4.4 TOLL RESTRICTION

A. Description

Toll Restriction provides for exchange access lines or trunks to be restricted from dialing sent paid toll calls. Local directory assistance calls are allowed. Attempted violation of the restrictions are routed to an announcement.

B. Terms and Conditions

1. This service is offered, subject to the availability of existing CO facilities, to individual line residence, individual line business and dial switching type customers.
2. Provision of Toll Restriction does not alleviate customer responsibility for completed toll calls.
3. Subscription to services that incorporate Toll Restriction may prevent the completion of 1-plus local calls.
4. Toll Restriction is available to Lifeline customers without charge. (N)

C. Rates and Charges

	USOC	NONRECURRING CHARGE	MONTHLY RATE
• Per line or trunk arranged	KX9	\$25.00	\$3.00
• Per line or trunk arranged[1]	KX9	8.50	-

[1] Applies to residence customers subscribing to Deposit Alternative Service in Credit Culture Trial.

NOTICE

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

SD97-061

TC97-044	Wireless Interconnection Agreement between U S WEST Communications, Inc. and CommNet Cellular, Inc. The amendment consists of lowering the current nonrecurring charge for trunk routing changes from that of charging on a per trunk basis to charging on a per trunk group basis. This nonrecurring charge applies only when changing from Direct Final to Alternate Final Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than December 29, 1997. Parties to the amendment may file written responses to the comments no later than January 8, 1998. (Staff: CH)	12/12/97	Responses Due 12/29/97
NONCOMPETITIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FILING			
TC96-107	U S WEST Communications filed tariff sheets implementing the Commission's November 24, 1997, decision establishing switched access rates effective December 1, 1997. "This filing does not waive the right of U S WEST to appeal the Commission's decision, nor does it waive any issues concerning this matter which may be waived in any other regulatory or judicial proceedings." (Staff: HB/KC)	12/17/97	NA
TC97-194	U S WEST Communications filed to eliminate the South Dakota Telephone Assistance and Link-Up programs, effective January 1, 1998, consistent with the Commission Order in Docket TC97-150. This filing also includes the FCC Lifeline Program Link-Up Plans, as well as a change in the credit the customer receives. Also attached is the following page from our Exchange and Network Services Catalog which adds language regarding Toll Restriction for Lifeline customers." (Staff: HB/KC)	12/17/97	12/26/97
REQUEST FOR ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY STATUS			
TC97-195	Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa d/b/a Hickory Tech Corporation pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 C.F.R. 54.201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area in South Dakota. Hickory Tech Corporation is the facilities based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges: West Hawarden (605) 547 and West Arkon (605) 565. Hickory Tech Corporation, to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/CH)	12/17/97	12/26/97

Important Notice: The Commission is compiling a list of internet addresses. If you have an internet address please notify the Commission by E-mailing it to Terry Norum at terry@pub.state.sd.us or Faxing the address to the Commission at 605-773-3809

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission State Capitol 500 E. Capitol Pierre, SD 57501-5070 Phone: (605) 773-3705 Fax: (605) 773-3809		TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE FILINGS These are the telecommunications service filings that the Commission has received for the period of: 12/11/97 through 12/18/97 If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overnight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact Dainne Kolbo within five days of this filing.	
DOCKET NUMBER	TITLE/STAFF/SYNOPSIS	DATE FILED	INTERVENTION DEADLINE
REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY			
TC97-191	Application by ConnectAmerica, Inc. d/b/a Connect US for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a telecommunications company within the state of South Dakota. (Staff: TS/KC) Applicant proposes to provide Message Toll Service, Incoming 800 and Travel Card services.	12/12/97	01/02/98
TC97-193	Application by New Century Telecom, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a telecommunications company within the state of South Dakota. (Staff: TS/CH) Applicant proposes to provide Outbound Interexchange Service, 800/888 Service, Calling Card Service and Directory Assistance. Applicant will not offer 900, 911, collect, or third-party billed calling services.	12/15/97	01/02/98
PETITION FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FILED			
TC97-192	In The Matter Of U S WEST Communications, Inc. And Its Ability To Serve South Dakota Customers. In Its Petition For Order to Show Cause Commission staff stated that by failing to provide adequate service, USWC could endanger the health, safety, and welfare of South Dakota citizens if those citizens cannot reach, for example, emergency numbers, doctors, hospitals, police and fire protection. Further, the inability of citizens and businesses to have telecommunications services timely installed and be otherwise reliable affects economic development and commerce and the welfare of the entire state of South Dakota. The convenience of the public can be and is negatively affected. The foregoing factors raise questions as to the competency, sufficiency and quality of management of USWC in South Dakota and the taxpayers in South Dakota, to prevent out-of-service conditions and to otherwise manage USWC in a manner which delivers reliable service in a timely manner to its customers and those wanting to become its customers. (Staff: HB/CH)	12/12/97	NA
AMENDMENT TO NEGOTIATED INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT FILED			
TC96-160	Wireless Interconnection Agreement between U S WEST Communications, Inc. and Western Wireless Corporation. The amendment consists of lowering the current nonrecurring charge for trunk routing changes from that of charging on a per trunk basis to charging on a per trunk group basis. This nonrecurring charge applies only when changing from Direct Final to Alternate Final to Direct Final. Any party wishing to comment on the parties' amendment may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than December 29, 1997. Parties to the amendment may file written responses to the comments no later than January 8, 1998. (Staff: CH)	12/12/97	Responses Due 12/29/97
TC97-032	First Amendment to Agreement For Service Resale between U S WEST Communications, Inc. and FirstTel, Inc. This amendment adds or replaces language in the original agreement. Any party wishing to comment on the parties' amendment may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than December 29, 1997. Parties to the amendment may file written responses to the comments no later than January 8, 1998. (Staff: CH)	12/12/97	Responses Due 12/29/97

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST)	ORDER APPROVING TARIFF
COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF)	REVISIONS
REVISIONS TO ITS EXCHANGE AND)	
NETWORK SERVICES TARIFF AND)	TC97-194
EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES)	
CATALOG)	

On December 17, 1997, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing by U S WEST Communications, Inc. to eliminate "the South Dakota Telephone Assistance and Link-Up programs, effective January 1, 1998, consistent with the Commission Order in Docket TC97-150. This filing also includes the FCC Lifeline program which will begin January 1, 1998. Changes have been made to the eligibility criteria for both the Telephone Assistance Plan and Link-Up Plans, as well as a change in the credit the customer receives. Also attached to the filing is a page from our Exchange and Network Services Catalog which adds language regarding Toll Restriction for Lifeline customers."

The following tariff sheets were filed with regard to the Exchange and Network Services Tariff:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Release</u>
1	5	2
1	12	3
1	14	5
2	22	2
5	Index 1	3
5	Index 2	4
5	66	3
5	67	2
5	68	2

Also filed was a page from the Exchange and Network Services Catalog:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Release</u>
10	4	2

At its duly noticed meeting on February 3, 1998, the Commission considered this matter.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31 and ARSD Article 20:10. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the above revisions to U S WEST's Exchange and Network Services Tariff and its Exchange and Network Services Catalog. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission approves U S WEST's revisions to its Exchange and Network Services Tariff and its Exchange and Network Services Catalog.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 13th day of February, 1998.

<p>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.</p> <p>By <u><i>William Halbo</i></u></p> <p>Date <u>2/13/98</u></p> <p>(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner