

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED) BY JOHN AND SHIRLEY HATCH, PIERRE,) SOUTH DAKOTA, AGAINST QWEST) COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING) UNAUTHORIZED BILLING FOR SERVICES)	ORDER FINDING PROBABLE CAUSE AND NOTICE REQUIRING ANSWER CT99-018
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On July 26, 1999, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a complaint filed by John and Shirley Hatch, Pierre, South Dakota (Complainants), against Qwest Communications, Inc. (Qwest). Complainants allege the unauthorized switching of their long distance service at a house they own in the Black Hills south of Lead, South Dakota.

Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:08.01 and 20:10:01:09, if a complaint cannot be settled without formal action, the Commission shall determine if the complaint shows probable cause of an unlawful or unreasonable act, rate, practice or omission to go forward with the complaint.

On August 17, 1999, the Commission considered this matter. Complainant John Hatch appeared before the Commission on this matter. Commission Staff recommended a finding of probable cause.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-13-1, 49-13-4, 49-13-13, 49-13-14.1, 49-31-3, 49-31-7, 49-31-7.1, 49-31-11, 49-31-89 through 49-31-96, inclusive, and ARSD 20:10:01:08.01 and 20:10:01:09. The Commission voted unanimously to find probable cause. It is therefore

ORDERED, that pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:09, the Commission finds that there is probable cause of an unlawful or unreasonable act, rate, practice, or omission and that the complaint shall be forwarded to Qwest and Qwest shall file with the Commission its answer in writing within twenty (20) days of service of this order.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 26th day of August, 1999.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
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.
By: <u><i>Aldine Kelbo</i></u>
Date: <u>8/30/99</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner