

Telecommunications Orders - Issued 1997

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST BY AT&T OF THE MIDWEST, INC. TO REQUIRE THE FILINGS OF INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS)	ORDER SETTING COMMENT SCHEDULE
.)	TC96-055
.)	TC96-064
IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION REGARDING U S WEST INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS		

On March 18, 1996, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from AT&T of the Midwest, Inc. (AT&T) asking the Commission to require the filing, within one week, of all existing interconnection agreements between local exchange carriers, such as U S WEST, and other carriers including traditional local exchange carriers and alternate local exchange access providers. Intervention was granted to South Dakota Independent Telephone Coalition (SDITC); Sprint Communications Company, L.P. (Sprint); and U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST).

On April 15, 1996, the Commission received a filing from MCI Telecommunications Corporation (MCI) requesting that the Commission order U S WEST to file all interconnection agreements with the Commission and submit those agreements to all those, including MCI, who have requested negotiations under § 252(a)(1).

By Order dated June 6, 1996, the Commission ordered that Dockets TC96-055 and TC96-064 be consolidated and set a briefing schedule.

A regularly scheduled September 4, 1996, meeting, the Commission considered how to proceed in these dockets. Commission Counsel, Rolayne Ailts Wiest, noted that all comments in these two dockets were filed before the FCC's rules and order on local competition were issued. Ms. Wiest noted that the FCC did rule on this particular issue and in paragraph 165, the FCC concluded that the 1996 Act requires all interconnection agreements, including any interconnection agreement negotiated before the date of the enactment of the Act to be submitted to the State Commission for approval pursuant to § 252(e). Under paragraph 171, the FCC set an outer time period of June 30, 1997, for the filing of agreements that Class A carriers have with other Class A carriers that pre-date the 1996 Act. The states may impose a shorter time period for filing pre-existing agreements. The FCC encouraged all carriers to file pre-existing contracts with the State Commission no later than June 30, 1997, but imposed this as a requirement only with respect to agreements between Class A carriers. Ms. Wiest recommended that the Commission require parties to file additional comments, consistent with the FCC's order, regarding possible timelines and any other issues raised by the FCC's order concerning the filing of interconnection agreements

negotiated before the date of the Act. She recommended that the comments be filed no later than September 20.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to accept Ms. Wiest's recommendations. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the parties file comments no later than September 20, 1996, concerning possible timelines and any other issues raised by the FCC's Order concerning the filing of interconnection agreements negotiated before the date of the Act.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 10th day of September, 1996.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

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.

KENNETH STOFFERAHN, Chairman

By: _____

JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner

Date: _____

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

LASKA SCHOENFELDER,
Commissioner

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