

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

**IN THE MATTER OF U S WEST) ORDER SUSPENDING
COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND ITS ABILITY TO) PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
SERVE SOUTH DAKOTA CUSTOMERS) TC97-192**

On December 12, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Petition for Order to Show Cause (Petition) from Commission Staff. The Petition requested that the Commission issue an Order to Show Cause ordering U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) to appear before the Commission and demonstrate its financial, managerial and technical ability, produce corporate and personal records, and show cause why one or more remedies, as listed in the Petition, should not be imposed on U S WEST.

On January 8, 1998, the Commission received a response from U S WEST to the Petition. At its January 8, 1998, meeting, the Commission listened to arguments concerning the Petition from Staff Attorney, Camron Hoseck, and U S WEST Attorney, William Heaston. The Commission deferred action at that meeting.

At its January 20, 1998, meeting, the Commission again considered the Petition. The Commission voted unanimously to accept Staff's Petition and issue an Order to Show Cause with the following possible additional remedies: that U S WEST be ordered to improve its planning and provisioning in growth areas; that U S WEST be ordered to provision, in a timely manner, adequate and reliable service; and that U S WEST be ordered to upgrade obsolete and non-functioning infrastructure. A procedural schedule was listed in the Order to Show Cause.

On February 10, 1998, the Commission received a Motion for Continuance from U S WEST. U S WEST requested that the dates for prefiled testimony and the hearing be modified due to U S WEST's need to conduct discovery.

At its February 24, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered the Motion for Continuance. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-2-1, 49-2-2, 49-2-4, 49-13-4, 49-13-5, 49-13-13, 49-13-17, 49-31-3, 49-31-7, 49-31-7.1, 49-31-10, 49-31-11, 49-31-38, 49-31-38.1, and 49-31-38.2 and ARSD 20:10:01:45. The Commission voted unanimously to suspend the procedural schedule and directed the Executive Director to issue, after consultation with U S WEST and Staff, a revised procedural schedule. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the procedural schedule is suspended and a revised procedural schedule shall be issued by the Executive Director.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 4th day of March, 1998.

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>Mildred Kalbo</i></u>
Date:	<u>3/4/98</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