

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST )  
COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF )  
AN INTERCONNECTION COST ADJUSTMENT )  
MECHANISM )**

**ORDER TO DISMISS AND  
CLOSE DOCKET**

**TC97-005**

On January 14, 1997, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) seeking to allow U S WEST to implement an Interconnection Cost Adjustment Mechanism (ICAM) for a defined 36-month period. According to the application, "The ICAM is limited to one time, extraordinary or start-up costs for systems modifications or development, network rearrangements and business office processes effectively mandated by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for the convenience of and use by U S WEST's competitors, and to facilitate U S WEST's existing customers' ability to choose a different local exchange service provider. Because no current or proposed rate or charge will provide an opportunity for U S WEST to recover all of these extraordinary, one-time or start-up costs, U S WEST proposes the ICAM to recover the totality of such costs." U S WEST has requested expeditious Commission treatment of this application. Intervention was granted to the following: Dakota Cooperative Telecommunications, Inc. (DCT), its subsidiaries Dakota Telecommunications Systems, Inc. (DTS) and Dakota Telecom, Inc. (DTI), PAM Communications (PAM), MCI Telecommunications Corporation (MCI), McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, Inc. (McLeodUSA), Sprint Communications Company L.P. (Sprint), AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc. (AT&T), and Midco Communications, Inc. (Midco). A procedural schedule for prefiled testimony and a hearing date was established. The hearing date was suspended on May 2, 1997.

At its regularly scheduled April 9, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered Staff's request to close the docket due to the lack of action taken on the docket. U S WEST, through its representative Jon Lehner, reported that action had been delayed in this matter as U S WEST was waiting for a Federal Communications Commission decision related to this matter. Mr. Lehner did not object to Staff's request to dismiss and close the docket. The Commission unanimously voted to dismiss the filing and close the docket. It is therefore

ORDERED that docket TC97-005 is hereby dismissed and closed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 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>Aldene Kelbo</i></u>
Date:	<u>4/20/98</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