

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST)	ORDER GRANTING
COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF)	REQUEST FOR DISCOVERY
AN INTERCONNECTION COST ADJUSTMENT)	
MECHANISM)	TC97-005

On January 14, 1997, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from U S WEST Communications, Inc., (US 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.

An intervention deadline of January 31, 1997, was established. 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) were granted intervention. A procedural schedule was issued on April 11, 1997. On April 17, 1997, U S WEST filed a request for an extension of time. On April 18, 1997, AT&T filed a Motion for Permission to Serve AT&T's First Set of Data Requests and Requests for Production of Documents on U S WEST and to Expedite Discovery. An amended procedural schedule was issued on April 24, 1997, establishing a hearing date commencing June 26, 1997.

At an ad hoc April 28, 1997, meeting, the Commission considered the positions of the parties.

The Commission, having jurisdiction in this matter, hereby

ORDERS that U S WEST shall respond to the interrogatories and document requests of AT&T which were attached to its motion and which have been filed in this docket and further

ORDERS that answers and requested documents shall be furnished by May 5, 1997.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd day of May, 1997.

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: *Delvin Kalbs*

Date: 5/2/97

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner