BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF FIRSTEL, INC. TO OFFER NEGOTIATED RATES	)))	**ORDER APPROVING WAIVERS TC97-109**

On June 25, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from FirsTel, Inc. (FirsTel). On July 1, 1997, an amended filing was received from FirsTel. In this filing, FirsTel requested that the Commission approve the waiver of ARSD 20:10:24:02(7) and 20:10:24:02(12) from the requirements of its Certificate of Authority.

At its duly noticed February 24, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered whether to grant the requested waivers. ARSD 20:10:24:02(7) pertains to the geographic area in which services will be offered. As FirsTel will be restricting its offerings to U S WEST territory, Staff recommended a waiver of this rule. ARSD 20:10:24:02(12) requires that cost support for rates shown in the company's tariff be filed. As FirsTel is reselling U S WEST's services, Staff recommended that this rule also be waived.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02. Based upon the above stated reasons, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the waivers as requested by FirsTel.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that FirsTel's request for a waiver of ARSD 20:10:24:02(7) and 20:10:24:02(12) as it pertains to its Certificate of Authority is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 10th 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: Delaine Kolbo

Date: 3/10/98

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

PAM NELSON, Commissioner

LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner