

**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 AGREEMENT) BETWEEN U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS,) INC. AND DAKOTA TELECOM, INC. AND) DAKOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS,) INC.)	ORDER APPROVING) AMENDED NEGOTIATED) INTERCONNECTION) AGREEMENT) TC97-126)
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On July 7, 1997, U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) filed for approval by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) of the negotiated Interconnection Agreement dated June 17, 1997, between U S WEST and Dakota Telecom, Inc. and Dakota Telecommunications Systems, Inc. (collectively Dakota). The Commission approved it by Order dated August 27, 1997. On September 17, 1998, U S WEST filed for approval of an Amended Interconnection Agreement amending the June 17, 1997 agreement between it and Dakota Telecom, Inc.

On September 17, 1998, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of this filing to interested individuals and entities. The notice stated that any person wishing to comment on the parties' request for approval may do so by filing written comments with the Commission on or before October 7, 1998. Parties to the agreement had until October 26, 1998, to file written responses to the comments. No comments were received from interested individuals, entities or Commission staff.

At its regularly scheduled October 15, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered the Amended Interconnection Agreement. Commission staff recommended approval.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, and the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. Upon review of the agreement, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the Amended Interconnection Agreement between U S WEST and Dakota Telecom, Inc. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the Amended Interconnection Agreement between U S WEST and Dakota Telecom, Inc.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of October, 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>Helaine Kaabo</u>
Date:	<u>10/22/98</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