

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE INTERCONNECTION CONTRACT) AMENDED PROCEDURAL
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS) SCHEDULE; ORDER FOR
COMPANY L.P. AND U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.) AND NOTICE OF HEARING
PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. SECTION 252 TC97-045**

On April 25, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Sprint Communications Company, L.P. (Sprint) pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 252(b)(1) to arbitrate open issues related to its interconnection negotiations with U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST).

The following procedural schedule shall be followed in this docket:

Sprint's prefiled testimony shall be filed with the Commission by May 5, 1997;

U S WEST shall file its response and its prefiled testimony by May 20, 1997;

Sprint shall file any optional rebuttal testimony by May 27, 1997;

Arbitration hearing before the Commission: commencing at 9:00 A.M. in Room 412 of the State Capitol Building, Pierre, South Dakota, on June 10, 1997, and continuing through June 13, 1997;

Post hearing briefs with citations to the record and a matrix of unresolved issues simultaneously due from parties: July 3, 1997;

Post hearing rebuttal briefs with citations to the record and proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law simultaneously due from parties: July 16, 1997; and

The Commission will issue its decision on any unresolved issues on or before August 15, 1997.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-31 and the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Commission may rely upon any or all of these or other laws of this state in making its determination.

The issues before the Commission will be to resolve all open issues related to the appropriate charges, terms and conditions for interconnection, services and network elements which are to be in an agreement between Sprint and U S WEST for the purpose of providing telecommunications service.

The hearing is an adversary proceeding conducted pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-26. All parties have the right to attend and represent themselves or be represented by an attorney. However, such rights and other due process rights shall be forfeited if not exercised at the hearing. If you or your representative fail to appear at the time and place set for the hearing, the final decision will be based solely on testimony and evidence provided, if any, during the hearing or a final decision will be issued by default pursuant to SDCL 1-26-20.

The Commission, after examining the evidence and hearing testimony presented by the parties shall make Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and its final decision. As a result of the hearing, the Commission will resolve any open issues related to the appropriate charges, terms and conditions for interconnection, services and network elements which are to be in an agreement between Sprint and U S WEST for the purpose of providing local telephone service. The final decision made by the Commission may be appealed by the parties. It is therefore

ORDERED, that all parties shall follow the procedural schedule as set forth above; and it is FURTHER ORDERED, that the hearing shall be held June 10, 1997, through June 13, 1997, in room 412 of the State Capitol Building, Pierre, South Dakota, commencing at 9:00 A.M.; and it is FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission adopts the procedures as found in docket TC96-082. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

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: _____

Date: _____

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:
Commissioners Burg, Nelson and
Schoenfelder

WILLIAM BULLARD, JR.
Executive Director