

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED)	ORDER FINDING
BY DALE AND LINDA BROOKS, MINA, SOUTH)	PROBABLE CAUSE
DAKOTA, AGAINST U S WEST)	
COMMUNICATIONS, INC. REGARDING)	TC98-129
UPDATING LINES)	

On July 10, 1998, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a complaint filed by Dale and Linda Brooks, Mina, South Dakota, against U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST). The complainants stated that they have received "lack of and poor telephone service in the Mina, South Dakota area." The complainants request the following relief: "The P.U.C. should get on U S WEST and not allow any rate increases until we have the same services that are available to residents of Aberdeen."

Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:08.01 and 20:10:01:09, if a complaint cannot be settled without formal action, the Commission shall determine if the complaint shows probable cause of an unlawful or unreasonable act, rate, practice or omission to go forward with the complaint.

On July 23, 1998, at a duly noticed meeting, U S WEST stated that the problem area that the Brooks complained of was scheduled to be updated by October 31, 1998.

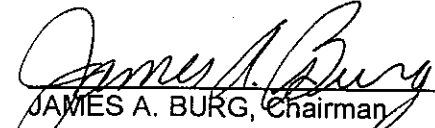
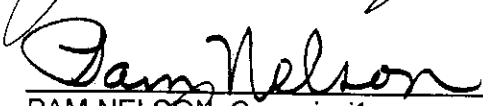

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-13, including 49-13-1 through 49-13-14, inclusive, and SDCL Chapter 49-31, including 49-31-3, 49-31-7, 49-31-7.1, 49-31-7.2, 49-31-10, 49-31-11, 49-31-38, 49-31-38.1, 49-31-38.2, 49-31-38.3, 49-31-60 through 49-31-68, inclusive, and ARSD 20:10:01:07.01 through 20:10:01:15.01, inclusive. The Commission voted unanimously to find probable cause. However, since U S WEST has stated that the facilities that serve the Brooks will be updated this year, the Commission will defer any action on the complaint until October 31, 1998. It is therefore

ORDERED, that pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:09, the Commission finds that there is probable cause of an unlawful or unreasonable act, rate, practice, or omission. The Commission does not require U S WEST to file its answer in this matter at this time.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 5th day of August, 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>Delaine Kaabo</i></u>
Date: <u>8/6/98</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

 _____ JAMES A. BURG, Chairman
 _____ PAM NELSON, Commissioner
 _____ LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner