

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

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST) | ORDER APPROVING |
| COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF) | AGREEMENT |
| AN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT) | |
| BETWEEN BLACK HILLS FIBERCOM, INC.) | TC98-205 |
| AND U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.) | |

On November 24, 1998, U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) filed for approval by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) of an interconnection agreement between Black Hills FiberCom, Inc. and U S WEST.

On November 25, 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 had until December 15, 1998, to do so. No comments were filed. Commission staff filed an analysis and recommendation and a supplement to it.

At its duly noticed January 6, 1999, meeting, the Commission considered whether to approve the agreement between U S WEST and Black Hills FiberCom, Inc.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, and the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. In accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2), the Commission found that the agreement does not discriminate against a telecommunications carrier that is not a party to the agreement and the agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the agreement.

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the agreement.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 6th day of January, 1999.

| |
|--|
| 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:

JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

PAM NELSON, Commissioner

LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner