

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION OF) ORDER OPENING DOCKET
U S WEST'S SERVICE QUALITY)
PERFORMANCE) TC97-016

On January 18, 1996, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) Order Approving Stipulation and Addendum in Docket TC94-121 became effective. No parties to the action appealed the Order. The Stipulation and Agreement and Addendum allowed for a rate increase of \$2.45 for residential basic local exchange service and a price ceiling of \$19.35 and an increase of \$2.75 for business basic local exchange service with a price ceiling of \$38.40. As a part of its order, the Commission directed Staff to review U S WEST's service quality performance at the end of 12 months following the effective date of the increase. Based upon the Commission's approval of U S WEST's performance, a proposed second increase may be implemented at the end of 18 months from the first increase.

On February 11, 1997, at a regularly scheduled meeting, Commission Staff recommended that the Commission open a docket in order to review U S WEST's service quality performance.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31. The Commission unanimously voted to open a docket to review U S WEST's service quality performance. It is therefore

ORDERED that a docket be opened to review U S WEST's service quality performance.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 20th day of February, 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: <u>Melaine Kalbo</u>
Date: <u>2/20/97</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