

Consumer Complaint Orders - Issued 1999

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY JANE HAM, CUSTER, SOUTH DAKOTA, AGAINST QWEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. REGARDING UNAUTHORIZED SWITCHING OF SERVICES))))))	ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF HEARING CT99-040
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On September 17, 1999, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a complaint from Jane Ham of Custer, South Dakota (Complainant), against Qwest Communications, Inc. (Qwest) regarding unauthorized switching of services. Complainant alleges that Qwest switched telecommunications services from AT&T to Qwest on August 3, 1999, without authorization. Complainant requested a return to AT&T, \$500 damages, and a \$1,000 fine.

Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:08.1 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 October 7, 1999, at a regularly scheduled meeting, Complainant appeared before the Commission. Unresolved factual issues still exist. The Commission voted unanimously to find probable cause.

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, 49-31-7.3, 49-31-7.4, 49-31-10, 49-31-11, 49-31-38, 49-31-38.1, 49-31-38.2, 49-31-38.3, 49-31-89 through 49-31-97, inclusive, and ARSD 20:10:01:07.01 through 20:10:15:01, inclusive, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:34

A hearing shall be held on December 7, 1999, beginning at 1:30 o'clock P.M. CST, in Room 464 of the State Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota. All persons testifying will be subject to cross-examination by the parties.

The issue at the hearing is whether Qwest committed an unlawful or unreasonable act, rate, practice or omission and, if so, what relief would be appropriate.

The hearing shall be an adversary proceeding conducted pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-26. All parties have the right to be present and to be represented by an attorney. These 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 the testimony and evidence provided, if any, during the hearing or a Final Decision may be issued by default pursuant to SDCL 1-26-20. After the hearing, the Commission will consider all evidence and testimony that was presented at the hearing. The Commission will then enter Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and a Final Decision regarding this matter. As a result of the hearing, the Commission shall determine whether Qwest committed an unlawful or unreasonable act, rate, practice, or omission and, if so, order any appropriate relief. The Commission's Final Decision may be appealed by the parties to the state Circuit Court and the state Supreme Court as provided by law. It is therefore

ORDERED that a hearing shall be held at the time and place specified above on the issue of whether Qwest committed an unlawful or unreasonable act, rate, practice or omission and, if so, what relief would be appropriate.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities 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 8th day of November, 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

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