

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS TO INCREASE THE CARRIER COMMON LINE ACCESS CHARGE AND RESTRUCTURE MTS RATES</b>	) ) ) ) ) ) )	<b>ORDER REOPENING RECORD AND ESTABLISHING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE  TC96-028</b>
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On February 13, 1996, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from U S West Communications (U S West) requesting Commission approval to increase its Carrier Common Line Access Charge (CCAC) and to restructure Message Telecommunications Services (MTS) rates. U S West proposed an effective date of March 14, 1996. An intervention deadline of March 1, 1996 was established by the Commission. The Commission received Petitions to Intervene in this matter from Express Communications, Dakota Cooperative Telecommunications, Inc., MCI Telecommunications Corporation, Sprint Communications Company L.P., AT&T Communications of the Midwest, and Telecommunications Action Group. A ad hoc meeting of March 6, 1996, the Commission granted intervention to all petitioners and assessed a filing fee not to exceed \$100,000. The Commission conducted a hearing on this matter on March 26, 1996, and recessed the hearing to allow time for further discovery by the parties. The hearing was reconvened on May 7, 1996. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Commission directed the parties to file post hearing briefs and set a briefing schedule.

A ad hoc meeting of May 31, 1996, the Commission reviewed U S West's filing and, pursuant to Administrative Rules of South Dakota 20:10:01:27.01, on its own motion, reopened the record in this matter for further hearing.

It is therefore ORDERED that:

1. The record in this matter is reopened.
2. The issues upon which the Commission wishes to hear evidence are:
  - a. With regard to the Carrier Common Line Access Charge, U S West should provide evidence justifying the specific amount it is currently requesting;
  - b. With regard to the Message Telecommunication Services rates, U S West should provide substantiation for the restructuring of that proposed lowered rate.

3. The Commission is not bound by the terms of this filing which attempt to make these two tariffs interdependent. They will be reviewed as two separate and distinct issues.

4. The Commission intends to consider the reopened docket in an expedited manner. Therefore, the following schedule will apply:

June 10, 1996:Parties shall file prefiled testimony;

June 12, 1996:A hearing will be held for the submission of evidence as requested by the Commission at 3:30 p.m., Room 412, Capitol Building, Pierre, S.D.;

June 24, 1996:Parties wishing to submit briefs must do so by the close of business on this date (in other words all briefs are to be simultaneously filed);

June 26, 1996:Re al briefs are to be simultaneously filed by the close of business on this date;

July 1, 1996: The Commission will make a decision.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3rd day of June, 1996.

**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.

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WILLIAM BULLARD Jr.  
Executive Director

By:\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

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