

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR REVISIONS TO ITS EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES TARIFF)	ORDER APPROVING TARIFF REVISIONS
)	TC96-181
)	

On November 15, 1996, U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) filed an application with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for approval to revise the following pages of its Exchange and Network Services Tariff:

Section - Page - Release

2 - 13.1 - 1

2 - 14 - 2

The purpose of the revisions is to introduce Full Toll Denial. According to the filing, "Under Full Toll Denial, when a customer fails to pay outstanding charges billed by the Company for Message Telecommunications Services calls, including MTS provided by the Company and interexchange carriers, but excluding 900-type services, all MTS service may be denied. Full Toll Denial includes the denial of third number billed, collect and calling card calls. Today, if a customer is disconnected for non-payment with a carrier, they simply switch to a different carrier. Therefore, they end up owing large amounts of toll dollars to the Company but are not inclined to pay them because they have access to other carriers. A very small percentage of customers will be affected by this change. However, they are usually very heavy toll users. If a customer has a valid dispute with a carrier, Full Toll Denial will not be implemented. U S WEST would ask to implement this service on December 15, 1996."

On November 21, 1996, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of December 6, 1996, to interested individuals and entities. On December 9, 1996, the Commission granted intervention to MCI Telecommunications Corporation (MCI).

On December 31, 1996, a regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended granting approval.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically under SDCL 49-31-1.1, 49-31-1.2, 49-31-4, 49-31-12, 49-31- 12.2, 49-31-12.4 and 49-31-12.5. Upon review of U S WEST's filing, the Commission concludes that the proposed revisions are fair and reasonable and should be approved. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED that U S WEST's proposed revisions set forth above are hereby approved as filed and are effective for telecommunications services rendered on and after December 31,1996.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3rd day of January, 1997.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

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.

KENNETH STOFFERAHN, Chairman

By:_____

JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner

Date:_____

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

LASKA SCHOENFELDER,
Commissioner

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