

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION OF)	ORDER CONSOLIDATING
U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. SERVICE)	DOCKETS
QUALITY PERFORMANCE)	TC97-016
IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST)	
COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR REVISIONS TO)	
ITS EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES)	TC97-049
TARIFF AND EXCHANGE AND NETWORK)	
SERVICES CATALOG)	

On February 20, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) opened TC97-016 to review U S WEST Communications, Inc.'s (U S WEST) service quality performance pursuant to the Commission's Order Approving Stipulation and Addendum in Docket TC94-121. In that docket, the Commission approved a rate increase for residential and business basic local exchange service. The Commission further decided that a proposed second increase may be implemented at the end of 18 months from the first increase depending on U S WEST's service quality performance.

On April 30, 1997, the Commission received a filing by U S WEST that reflects the second phase of increases. An intervention deadline of May 16, 1997, was established and MCI Telecommunications Corporation (MCI) and AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc. (AT&T) each filed timely petitions to intervene. The Commission considered the petitions to intervene in docket TC97-049.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-31.

Staff recommended that the Commission consolidate TC97-016 and TC97-049 because they are closely related and interdependent on each other. No parties objected to the consolidation.

On June 3, 1997, at a duly noticed meeting, the Commission decided to consolidate dockets TC97-016 and TC97-049. It is therefore

ORDERED that dockets TC97-016 and TC97-049 shall be consolidated.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 13th day of June, 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><i>Dwayne Kaelbo</i></u>
Date: <u>6/13/97</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