

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S)	ORDER APPROVING FIRST
WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR)	AMENDMENT TO A
APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT FOR)	NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT
SERVICE RESALE BETWEEN FIRSTEL, INC.)	
AND U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)	TC97-032

On March 31, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST). In this filing, U S WEST requested Commission approval of a negotiated Agreement for Service Resale with FirsTel, Inc. (FirsTel) pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 252(a)(1) and 252(e).

On April 3, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of this filing to interested individuals and entities. The notice stated that any person that wanted to comment on the request for approval of the negotiated Agreement for Service Resale could do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the Agreement no later than April 21, 1997. Written comments were filed by staff.

At its June 3, 1997, meeting, the Commission considered whether to approve the negotiated Agreement for Service Resale between FirsTel and U S WEST. In light of staff's analysis, the matter was deferred. At its June 24, 1997, meeting, the Commission considered a revised Agreement and staff's analysis of it. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, and the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. Upon review of the revised Agreement, the Commission found that, as required by 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A), the revised Agreement does not discriminate against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the revised Agreement nor is the implementation of this revised Agreement inconsistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the negotiated redrawn Agreement for Service Resale dated June 5, 1997.

On December 12, 1997, the Commission received a first amendment to the Agreement described above. At its regularly scheduled January 20, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered the approval of this first amendment. Commission staff recommended approval of the first amendment. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the first amendment to the negotiated Agreement. Pursuant to § 252(e)(2)(A), the Commission finds that the amendment does not discriminate against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the amendment nor is the implementation of the amendment inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. It is therefore

ORDERED, that pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(e) the Commission approves the first amendment to the negotiated Agreement for Service Resale between FirsTel and U S WEST; the negotiated Agreement is originally dated March 19, 1997, and the revised version filed pursuant to Commission order is dated June 5, 1997. The first amendment is dated November 17, 1997.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of January, 1998.

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:

Alain Kaebo

Date:

1/23/98

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner