

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST)
COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF)
AN INTERCONNECTION COST ADJUSTMENT)
MECHANISM)**

**ORDER GRANTING
INTERVENTION

TC97-005**

On January 14, 1997, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from U S WEST Communications, Inc., (US WEST) seeking to allow U S WEST to implement an Interconnection Cost Adjustment Mechanism (ICAM) for a defined 36-month period. According to the application, "The ICAM is limited to one time, extraordinary or start-up costs for systems modifications or development, network rearrangements and business office processes effectively mandated by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for the convenience of and use by U S WEST's competitors, and to facilitate U S WEST's existing customers' ability to choose a different local exchange service provider. Because no current or proposed rate or charge will provide an opportunity for U S WEST to recover all of these extraordinary, one-time or start-up costs, U S WEST proposes the ICAM to recover the totality of such costs." U S WEST has requested expeditious Commission treatment of this application.

An intervention deadline of January 31, 1997, was established and Dakota Cooperative Telecommunications, Inc. (DCT), its subsidiaries Dakota Telecommunications Systems, Inc. (DTS) and Dakota Telecom, Inc. (DTI), PAM Communications (PAM), MCI Telecommunications Corporation (MCI), McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, Inc. (McLeodUSA), Sprint Communications Company L.P. (Sprint), AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc. (AT&T), and Midco Communications, Inc. (Midco) have timely filed petitions to intervene.

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

At its regularly scheduled meeting of February 11, 1997, the Commission found that the Petitions to Intervene were timely filed and demonstrated good cause to grant intervention. It is therefore

ORDERED that the Petitions to Intervene of DCT, DTS, DTI, PAM, MCI, McLeodUSA, Sprint, AT&T, and Midco are granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 20th day of February, 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>Maureen Kalbo</i></u>
Date:	<u>2/21/97</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