

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)	ORDER GRANTING
INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE COMPANIES)	INTERVENTION
THAT HAVE PURCHASED U S WEST)	
EXCHANGE AREAS FOR EXTENSION OF)	TC97-042
WAIVER OF SWITCHED ACCESS RULES)	

On April 15, 1997, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission), received a petition of the independent telephone companies that have purchased U S WEST exchange areas for an extension of the waiver of the switched access rules which the Commission granted as part of its final Order approving the sale of U S WEST exchanges. The Commission approved a composite switched access rate of 7 cents per minute of use. "The rate, which was stipulated to within the purchase agreements between U S WEST and [the purchasing] companies, was accepted by the Commission and approved as a reasonable interim rate in recognition of the fact that no rate could be established pursuant to the Commission's switched access rules (ARSD Chapters 20:10:27 to 20:10:29) until each of the purchasing companies had operated the transferred exchange areas for at least a one-year time period....it is necessary to request from the Commission an extension of the waiver previously granted in the exchange sale dockets....The [purchasing] companies request an extension of the waiver until such time that cost studies based on 1997 calendar year operations can be provided."

On April 17, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of May 2, 1997, to interested individuals and entities.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, specifically 1-26-17.1, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-12, 49-34A-13.1 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 and .03.

On April 30, 1997, the Commission received a Petition to Intervene from U S WEST Communications, Inc., requesting that the Commission grant it full party status in this matter. On May 13, 1997, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the Petition to Intervene. The Commission finds that pursuant to its authority under SDCL 1-26-17.1 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 and .03, the petition of U S WEST was timely filed and demonstrates good cause to grant intervention. It is therefore

ORDERED that U S WEST shall be granted intervention and shall be considered a party in this matter.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of May, 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>Almaire K. Sells</i></u>
Date:	<u>5/22/97</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

<u><i>James A. Burg</i></u> JAMES A. BURG, Chairman
<u><i>Pam Nelson</i></u> PAM NELSON, Commissioner