

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF) INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE COMPANIES) THAT HAVE PURCHASED U S WEST) EXCHANGE AREAS FOR EXTENSION OF) WAIVER)))))))	ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION OF WAIVER OF SWITCHED ACCESS RULES TC97-042
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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 Orders approving the sales of U S WEST exchanges. The Commission approved a composite switched access rate of 7 cents per minute of use. 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. On May 13, 1997, U S WEST was granted intervention.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of July 15, 1997, the Commission considered the matter along with comments from Staff.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:27:02. Further, the Commission finds that it has good cause to grant an extension of the waiver of the switched access rules and petitioner shall provide staff with a date certain regarding the time at which cost studies based on 1997 calendar year operations will be forthcoming. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the request for an extension of the waiver of switched access rules is hereby granted; and it is further

ORDERED, that petitioner shall provide staff with a date certain regarding the time at which cost studies based on 1997 calendar year operations will be forthcoming.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 29th day of July, 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>Delmar K. Kelso</i></u>
Date: <u>7/29/97</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