

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE INTERCONNECTION) CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN) SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P.) AND U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.) PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. SECTION 252)	ORDER GRANTING WITHDRAWAL TC97-045
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On April 25, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Sprint Communications Company, L.P. (Sprint) pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 252(b)(1) to arbitrate open issues related to its interconnection negotiations with U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST). A procedural schedule was established in this matter on May 2, 1997. An Arbitration hearing was scheduled for June 10, 1997.

On May 16, 1997, Sprint filed a Motion to Withdraw and a Stipulation and Agreement signed by both Sprint and U S WEST which states that the parties will submit a negotiated interconnection agreement between Sprint and U S WEST to the Commission for approval pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as soon as the parties are able to complete the agreement but no later than sixty days after Sprint's dismissal of its Petition for Arbitration is approved by the Commission.

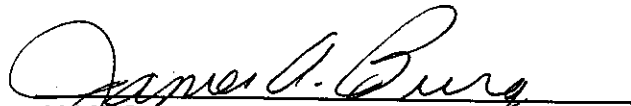
On June 3, 1997, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered Sprint's Motion to Withdraw. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-31 and the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Commission voted unanimously to approve Sprint's Motion to Withdraw. It is therefore

ORDERED that Sprint's Motion to Withdraw is hereby approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 10th 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> </u>
Date: <u> 6/13/97 </u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)


BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



JAMES A. BURG, Chairman



PAM NELSON, Commissioner



LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner