

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING FOR) APPROVAL OF A FIRST AMENDMENT TO AN) INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN) U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND) RURAL CELLULAR CORPORATION)))))))	ORDER APPROVING FIRST AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT TC98-096
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On May 3, 2000, U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) filed for approval by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) of a first amendment to an interconnection agreement between Rural Cellular Corporation (Rural Cellular) and U S WEST. The first amendment replaces in its entirety Section 21.2.1 in the original agreement with regard to its term.

On May 4, 2000, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing of the first amendment to interested individuals and entities. The notice stated that any person wishing to intervene had until May 19, 2000, to do so. No intervention petitions were filed nor were any comments received.

At its duly noticed May 30, 2000, meeting, the Commission considered whether to approve the negotiated first amendment to the agreement between U S WEST and Rural Cellular. Commission Staff recommended its approval.

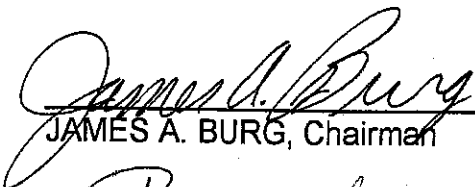


The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, and the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. In accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2), the Commission found that the first amendment does not discriminate against a telecommunications carrier that is not a party to the first amendment and the first amendment is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the first amendment to the agreement. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the negotiated first amendment to the agreement as described herein.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 6th day of June, 2000.

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>Melanie Kalbo</u>
Date: <u>6/6/00</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

 _____ JAMES A. BURG, Chairman
 _____ PAM NELSON, Commissioner
 _____ LASKA SCHÖNFELDER, Commissioner