

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST)	ORDER APPROVING FIRST
COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF)	AND SECOND
A FIRST AND SECOND AMENDMENT TO AN)	AMENDMENTS TO
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN)	AGREEMENT
U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND)	
FIRSTEL, INC.)	TC98-203

On March 21, 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 FirsTel, Inc. (FirsTel) and U S WEST. The first amendment replaces in its entirety Section, 8, Collocation, in the original agreement.

On April 12, 2000, U S WEST filed for approval of a second amendment to the agreement between U S WEST and FirsTel. The second amendment adds terms, conditions and rates with regard to unbundled network elements.

The original agreement which is amended by these two amendments was between U S WEST and Advanced Communications Group, Inc. (ACG). ACG assigned all of its rights in the original agreement to its wholly owned subsidiary, FirsTel, said assignment being approved by the Commission in Docket TC98-203 on September 14, 1999.

On March 30, 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 April 6, 2000, to do so. On April 13, 2000, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing of the second amendment to interested individuals and entities. The notice stated that any person wishing to intervene had until April 28, 2000, to do so. No intervention petitions were filed.

At its duly noticed May 17, 2000, meeting, the Commission considered whether to approve the negotiated first and second amendments to the agreement between U S WEST and FirsTel. 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 and second amendments do not discriminate against a telecommunications carrier that is not a party to the first and second amendments and the first and second amendments are consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the first and second amendments to the agreement. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the negotiated first and second amendments to the agreement as described herein.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 23rd day of May, 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 Kelbs</u>
Date: <u>5/25/00</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