

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE INQUIRY OF) PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE;
WHETHER TO RECLASSIFY U S WEST) ORDER FOR AND NOTICE
COMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S INTRALATA TOLL) OF HEARING
AND WIDE-AREA TELEPHONE SERVICES) TC99-099

At its August 17, 1999, meeting, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) voted to direct the Executive Director to open a docket to consider whether to have intraLATA toll and wide-area telephone services for U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) reclassified from emerging competitive to fully competitive (Commissioner Schoenfelder, dissenting). Pursuant to SDCL 49-31-3.2, when determining how a telecommunications service is to be classified, the Commission shall consider the following:

- (1) The number and size of alternative providers of the service and the affiliation to other providers;
- (2) The extent to which services are available from alternative providers in the relevant market;
- (3) The ability of alternative providers to make functionally equivalent or substitute services readily available at competitive rates, terms, and conditions of service;
- (4) The market share, the ability of the market to hold prices close to the cost, and other economic measures of market power; and
- (5) The impact on universal service.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-31-3.2 and 49-31-3.4. Pursuant to SDCL 49-31-3.4, in any proceeding to reclassify a telecommunications service, the telecommunications company providing the service has the burden of proving that the classification is appropriate if the proceeding is commenced by the Commission on its own motion. Therefore, the procedural schedule is as follow:

DATE	PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
October 22, 1999	U S WEST Prefiled Testimony Due
November 5, 1999	Staff and Intervenor Testimony Due
November 12, 1999	Reply Testimony Due

A hearing shall be held at 9:00 a.m., on November 22, 1999, in Room 412, State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota. The hearing is open to the public. All persons testifying shall be subject to cross-examination.

The issue at the hearing is whether the Commission shall reclassify U S WEST's intraLATA toll and wide-area telephone services from emerging competitive to fully competitive.

The hearing shall be an adversary proceeding conducted pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-26. All parties have the right to be present and to be represented by an attorney. These rights and other due process rights shall be forfeited if not exercised at the hearing. If you or your representative fail to appear at the time and place set for the hearing, the Final Decision will be based solely on the testimony and evidence provided, if any, during the hearing or a Final Decision may be issued by default pursuant to SDCL 1-26-20. After the hearing the Commission will consider all evidence and testimony that was presented at the hearing. The Commission will then enter Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and a Final Decision regarding this matter. As a result of this hearing, the Commission shall determine whether it shall reclassify U S WEST's intraLATA toll and wide-area telephone services from emerging competitive to fully competitive. The Commission's Final Decision may be appealed by the parties to the state Circuit Court and the state Supreme Court as provided by law. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the procedural schedule set forth above shall be followed by all parties to these proceedings. It is further

ORDERED, that the hearing shall commence at 9:00 a.m., on November 22, 1999, in Room 412, State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 4th day of October, 1999.

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>Deldine Kalbo</i></u>
Date: <u>10/4/99</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