BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING FOR APPROVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND NEWPATH HOLDINGS, INC.	))))))	ORDER APPROVING AGREEMENT TC00-099

On June 16, 2000, U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) filed for approval by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an interconnection agreement between NewPath Holdings, Inc. (NewPath) and U S WEST.

On June 22, 2000, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of this filing to interested individuals and entities. The notice stated that any person wishing to comment on the parties' request for approval had until July 6, 2000, to do so. No comments were filed.

At its duly noticed August 9, 2000, meeting, the Commission considered whether to approve the agreement between U S WEST and NewPath. 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 agreement does not discriminate against a telecommunications carrier that is not a party to the agreement and the agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the agreement. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the agreement.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 16th day of August, 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:_____

Date:_____

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

_____
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

_____
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

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LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner