

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT) ORDER CLOSING DOCKET
OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR U S)
WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.) TC99-073**

On June 29, 1999, U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) filed for approval by the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) its 1998 Intrastate Switched Access Cost Study.

On July 1, 1999, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 16, 1999, to interested individuals and entities. On July 13, 1999, the Commission voted to assess a filing fee as requested by the Executive Director up to the statutory limit of \$100,000. Staff filed a memorandum on October 26, 1999, recommending that the switched access rate remain at the Commission ordered \$.060905 per minute rate with an overall rate of return of 9.62% per U S WEST's request. The Commission considered this matter at its December 28, 1999, meeting.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 1-26-17.1, 49-1A-9, 49-31-12.4, 49-31-12.6, 49-31-18, 49-31-19 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02, 20:10:01:15.05, 20:10:27:07 and 20:10:27:08. The Commission finds that U S WEST is not requesting a change in its switched access rate schedules. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that the docket is hereby closed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 14th day of January, 2000.

<p>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>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.</p> <p>By: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p style="text-align:center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

PAM NELSON, Commissioner

LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner