

**Telecommunications Orders - Issued 1997**

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January 6, 1997

TO ALL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROVIDERS:

Re: Docket TC96-194

On December 5, 1996, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Joint Motion for Local Telecommunications Carrier Participation in the Western Region Telephone Number Portability, LLC submitted by U S WEST Communications, Inc., MCI Telecommunications Corporation, Teleport Communications Group, and AT&T Communications of the Mountain States, Inc. According to the filing: "The Commission should issue a decision allowing incumbent and potential providers in South Dakota to participate in the Western Region Telephone Number Portability, LLC to provide the most cost effective solution to LNP. The Commission decision should be issued as soon as possible to allow for providers not already participating in the LLC as a result of some other state's action to participate in the selection of the vendor prior to December 16, 1996."

A regularly scheduled meeting of December 9, 1996, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff explained the difference between the Western Region group and NANC and recommended that the Commission send a letter to all statewide telecommunications providers stating that the Commission did not object to their participating in the Western Region Telephone Number Portability, LLC. The Commission unanimously voted to send the letter recommended by Staff. The Commission hereby states that it does not object to telecommunications providers participating in the Western Region Telephone Number Portability, LLC.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 6th day of January, 1997.

Sincerely,

Ken Stofferahn, Chairman

James A. Burg, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder, Commissioner

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