

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION OF)
U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S)
SERVICE QUALITY PERFORMANCE)
)

ORDER GRANTING
INTERVENTIONS

TC97-016

On February 20, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) opened this docket to review U S WEST's service quality performance pursuant to the Commission's Order Approving Stipulation and Addendum in Docket TC94-121. In that docket, the Commission approved a rate increase for residential and business basic local exchange service. The Commission further decided that a proposed second increase may be implemented at the end of 18 months from the first increase depending on U S WEST's service quality performance. The Commission directed the Commission staff to review U S WEST's service quality performance at the end of 12 months following the effective date of the increase. The Commission set an intervention deadline of March 7, 1997, for this docket.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-13, and 49-31.

On February 25, 1997, MCI Telecommunications Corporation (MCI) filed a Petition to Intervene, and on March 4, 1997, AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc. (AT&T) filed a Petition to Intervene.

At its regularly scheduled April 15, 1997, meeting, the Commission found that the Petitions to Intervene were timely filed and demonstrated good cause to grant intervention. It is therefore

ORDERED, that MCI's and AT&T's Petitions to Intervene are granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 28th day of April, 1997.

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>Delaine Kells</i></u>
Date: <u>4/28/97</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