

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

| | |
|--|---|
| IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST) COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF) AN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT) BETWEEN U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS,) INC. AND DAKOTA TELECOM, INC. AND) DAKOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS,) INC.) | ORDER APPROVING NEGOTIATED INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT TC97-126 |
|--|---|

On July 7, 1997, U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) filed for approval by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) of the negotiated Interconnection Agreement between U S WEST and Dakota Telecom, Inc. and Dakota Telecommunications Systems, Inc. (collectively Dakota).

On July 10, 1997, 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 may do so by filing written comments with the Commission on or before July 28, 1997. Parties to the agreement had until August 15, 1997, to file written responses to the comments. On July 22, 1997, Staff filed its Analysis and Recommendation.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, and the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. Upon review of the agreement, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the negotiated agreement, subject to the condition that the agreement be revised to state that it shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the state of South Dakota. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the negotiated agreement, subject to the condition that the agreement be revised to state that it shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the state of South Dakota.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 27th day of August, 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>Adrian Kelso</i></u> |
| Date: <u>9/2/97</u> |
| (OFFICIAL SEAL) |

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

| |
|--|
| <u><i>James A. Burg</i></u> JAMES A. BURG, Chairman |
| <u><i>Pam Nelson</i></u> PAM NELSON, Commissioner |
| <u><i>Laska Schoenfelder</i></u> LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner |