

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) APPLICATION NO. C-1415
on its own motion, to investigate)
US West Communications' cost to)
establish rates for interconnec-) ORDER
tion, unbundled network elements,)
transport and termination and)
resale services.) ENTERED: April 7, 1998

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

On September 19, 1996, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission), on its own motion, opened this docket as a generic proceeding to investigate US West Communications, Inc.'s (US West) costs in order to establish rates for interconnection, unbundled network elements, transport and termination and resale services. It has come to the Commission's attention that its initial order establishing this docket created confusion concerning which entities were either parties or eligible to become parties and that such confusion might have the unintended effect of limiting or foreclosing the right of certain telecommunications carriers whose interests would be directly effected by the outcome of these proceedings from participating in the docket. Further, the Commission has been advised by its staff economist and its consultant on cost models that the Commission's Procedural Schedule adopted on December 2, 1997, may not provide sufficient time for the Commission or the other parties in this docket to adequately review, evaluate and comment on the cost information to be submitted by US West and other parties herein to the Commission hereunder.

It is in the public interest that entities whose interest will be directly effected by the actions of this docket not suffer an unintended penalty by being precluded from participating in this docket. It is also in the public interest that as much relevant information as possible concerning the important matters which are the subject of this docket be presented to the Commission in an orderly and efficient manner, with adequate time for the Commission and other parties hereto to thoroughly and thoughtfully review, evaluate and comment on such information.

Based on the foregoing, the Commission hereby modifies its previous orders in this docket as follows:

1. Pursuant to its authority under Rule 012 of the Rules of Commission Procedure, the Commission hereby determines that US West plus all entities certificated by the Commission as competitive local exchange carriers, and all entities which have an application pending before the Commission to become a competitive local exchange carrier as of the date hereof, are hereby parties to this docket.

2. Any party who intends to file a cost model or cost study in this proceeding shall submit such information to the Commission for review by all parties on April 14, 1998. There shall be no discovery.

3. All parties, including US West, are entitled to submit comments concerning any cost information and other relevant matters on June 9, 1998.

4. All parties may then submit reply comments on July 7, 1998.

5. The Commission will then conduct a hearing on the basis of the written comments of the parties with cross examination to be limited to one hour in total, per witness.

6. All filings shall be in writing as well as on disk in WordPerfect format.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that US West and all certificated competitive local exchange carriers, and all carriers who have an application pending before the Commission to become a competitive local exchange carrier as of the date hereof, be, and they are hereby, named parties to this docket.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Commission that the procedural schedule and format set forth above be, and it is hereby, adopted and that all previous orders of the Commission inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 7th day of April, 1998.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

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