

Service Date: October 18, 1988

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER of The Application of)
MOUNTAIN STATES TELEPHONE AND) UTILITY DIVISION
TELEGRAPH (Mountain Bell or U S West)
Communications) for Authority To) DOCKET NO. 88.8.44
Incorporate Revised Directory)
Assistance Tariffs Into Its Tariff) ORDER NO. 5372
To State Alternative Terms Of Service)
For Customers Of Independent Local)
Exchange Carriers.)
_____)

INTERIM ORDER

FINDINGS OF FACT

On August 18, 1988, U S West Communications (USWC) filed with the Montana Public Service Commission (PSC) an application for authority to revise its Montana Tariff, Sections A5. and A6., to state alternative terms of service for Directory Assistance (DA) customers of other Local Exchange Carriers (LECs).

USWC makes this filing pursuant to Finding of Fact Nos. 24 and 25 of Order No. 5336a in Docket 87.12.84. Finding No. 24 states that USWC "continues its position that the LEC is its DA customer but on an interim basis, at least through 1990, it will bill the independent LEC's basic exchange customers for DA." The terms proposed by USWC are outlined as follows. USWC would file, in its current rate case, Docket No. 88.1.2, appropriate changes to local and toll DA. These changes will make DA effective to both USWC customers and customers of independent LECs. USWC also proposed that they would file modified testimony in the general

rate case, Docket No. 88.1.2, as soon as possible along with looking into the costing and pricing of providing DA services to independent LECs (FOF 24, Docket No. 87.12.84). Finding of Fact No. 25, in Docket No. 87.12.84, states that the Commission finds the solution to the DA problem, as illustrated in FOF No. 24 and in the testimonial record pages 102-104 of Docket No. 87.12.84, to be reasonable and approved the "charging scheme". This filing is that charging scheme.

Two tariffed options have been made available from which an independent LEC can choose in providing DA for its customers. These options are retail or wholesale service. The tariff changes state the terms for billing and collecting for each of these two options for both local and toll service. The tariff also states that DA charges to the retail LEC customers will be the same for USWC's exchange customers for both local and toll DA service. All other portions of the tariff are effectively the same with the exception of two wording changes to include other LECs and that call allowances will be based on access lines rather than Central Office lines.

Pursuant to the above, USWC filed supplementary testimony with the Commission in Docket No. 88.1.2 supporting the new DA charging scheme and proposing a DA rate and cost structure unique to LEC customers. This supplementary testimony was filed on September 20, 1988. On October 11, 1988, a Notice of Commission Action was issued in the 88.1.2 Docket, setting forth a procedural schedule for these issues.

The Commission approves this filing on an interim basis. The Commission has also approved that this filing be consolidated into the 88.1.2 docket and that final approval will be considered in this docket.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Applicant, U S West Communications, is a public utility offering regulated telecommunications service in Montana. MCA 69-3-101, 69-3-803(3).

2. The Montana Public Service Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over Applicant's Montana operations pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3, MCA.

3. The Commission may, in its discretion, temporarily approve increases or decreases pending a hearing or final decision. MCA 69-3-304.

ORDER

THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HEREBY ORDERS:

1. The Public Service Commission approves, on an interim basis, USWC's DA filing as submitted on August 18, 1988.

2. This filing is hereby incorporated and consolidated into the current USWC general rate case, Docket No. 88.1.2.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana this 3rd day of October, 1988 by a 4 - 0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Clyde Jarvis, Chairman

Howard L. Ellis

Tom Monahan

Danny Oberg

ATTEST:

Carol A. Frasier
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.