

Service Date: July 1, 1999

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

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IN THE MATTER OF U S WEST)	UTILITY DIVISION
COMMUNICATIONS, INC., Withdrawal of)	
IntraLATA Toll Service from Ronan and)	DOCKET NO. D99.3.52
Hot Springs Exchange Areas)	ORDER NO. 6184

ORDER ON REGULATORY STATUS AND DISMISSAL

On March 4, 1999, Ronan Telephone Company and Hot Springs Telephone Company (RTC / HSTC) filed before the Public Service Commission (PSC) a Motion for Emergency Order. In the motion RTC / HSTC sought to delay or prohibit U S West Communications, Inc. (USWC), from withdrawing intraLATA toll service from the Ronan and Hot Springs telephone exchange areas. USWC responded to the motion. On PSC request RTC / HSTC and USWC later submitted supplemental information.

On June 25, 1999, RTC / HSTC filed an Application for Approval of Regulatory Status, stating that an agreement has been reached between RTC / HSTC and USWC and the matter may be dismissed, subject only to PSC approval of regulatory status of RTC / HSTC in regard to intraLATA toll resale service as follows:

1. RTC / HSTC toll service would not be price regulated by the PSC and would have complete pricing flexibility and neither tariffs nor price lists will be required to be filed with the PSC;
2. RTC / HSTC toll service would be subject to PSC jurisdiction as a "reseller" and would therefore be subject to PSC service regulation; and
3. The initial toll rates to be charged by RTC / HSTC will be the same as the current USWC intraLATA toll rates.

The PSC approves the requested regulatory status of RTC / HSTC, with the following qualification. The regulatory status RTC / HSTC have requested is the same, with few exceptions based on reasons not applicable to RTC / HSTC, as the PSC presently regulates other

resellers in the same category as RTC / HSTC. However, all regulation is subject to change through time, whether as a result of legislation, rulemaking, or other, and if PSC regulation of resellers in the same category as RTC / HSTC changes in the future, the regulatory status of RTC / HSTC must also change.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED the regulatory status of RTC / HSTC is approved as stated above, the matter is dismissed, and the docket is closed.

Done and dated this 29th day of June, 1999, by a vote of 5-0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DAVE FISHER, Chair

NANCY MCCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

GARY FELAND, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
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.