

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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THE APPLICATION OF THE MOUNTAIN STATES)	
TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY,)	DOCKET NO. 89A-474T
D/B/A U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,)	
FOR THE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION)	COMMISSION ORDER APPROVING
OF A SWITCH AND FACILITY ENRICHMENT)	JOINT MOTION
PROGRAM.)	AND STIPULATION

May 30, 1990

STATEMENT, FINDINGS, AND CONCLUSIONS

BY THE COMMISSION:

On August 14, 1989, The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company, d/b/a U S WEST Communications, Inc. (USWC), filed this application seeking approval from the Commission to implement a Switch and Facility Enrichment (SAFE) Program throughout Colorado. On August 31, 1989, a Stipulation was filed in this application signed on behalf of USWC, the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC), and the Staff of the Commission. Ultimately, the Stipulation was approved by AT&T Communications of the Mountain States, Inc., and MCI Telecommunications, Inc. (MCI). The Stipulation was approved by the Commission on December 20, 1989, in Decision No. C89-1709.

As part of Decision No. C89-1709, the Commission required USWC to file certain reports with the Commission so that the Commission could monitor the progress of this program; particularly, expected benefits, including 1.) improved telecommunications service; 2.) the ability for customers to obtain new services; 3.) the establishment of a more competitive environment; and 4.) the enhancement of economic development within many communities in Colorado in need of upgraded central office telephone facilities.

On February 20, 1990, USWC filed its Monitoring and Evaluation Program and Motion for Approval Thereof. Responses were filed by the Staff of the Commission (Staff) and MCI. The Staff also filed a status report and a memorandum regarding the tentative switch replacement schedule.

On May 9, 1990, USWC filed a Stipulation concerning the reports required by the Commission in Decision No. C89-1709. On May 23, 1990,

USWC and Staff filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Stipulation. The stipulation provides the necessary reports, on a quarterly basis in some instances, and on an annual basis in other instances, to quantify the anticipated benefits. Staff agrees that the proposed reports should generate the information desired by the Commission to monitor the effects of the central office upgrade. In Decision No. C89-1709, certain reports were to be required on a monthly basis; however, the Staff has advised the Commission that quarterly reporting will be sufficient.

The Commission also contemplated that interexchange carriers and other entities, such as local governments, would advise the Commission of progress as a result of the upgrade. MCI filed a response to USWC's original evaluation proposal. It will report to the Commission whether it is serving a new, upgraded central office and will be able to supply the number of customers and minutes of use on a product-specific basis. MCI also noted that the Staff has initiated a roundtable study group to evaluate and recommend uniform methods of reporting as a result of Docket No. 89I-082T. Reports would be submitted by other carriers and entities on an annual basis. This approach should be acceptable.

The stipulation filed on May 9, 1990, by USWC and the Staff should be approved and the Joint Motion for Approval of Stipulation should be granted.

THEREFORE THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Joint Motion for Approval of Stipulation filed by The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company, d/b/a U S WEST Communications, Inc., and the Staff of the Commission on May 23, 1990, is granted.
2. The Stipulation filed by The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company, d/b/a U S WEST Communications, Inc., and the Staff of the Commission on May 9, 1990, is approved.
3. The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company, d/b/a U S WEST Communications, Inc., shall comply with the terms of the Stipulation approved by filing appropriate reports identified in the Stipulation.
4. All other parties to this proceeding shall cooperate with the Staff of the Commission in the roundtable study group which has evolved from Docket No. 89I-082T to provide further reports demonstrating the benefits of the central office upgrade.

This Decision is effective immediately.

DONE IN OPEN MEETING May 30, 1990.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

Arnold H. Cook
Ronald L. Lehn
Larry J. Nakarado
Commissioners

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