

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: QWEST CORPORATION, f/k/a U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	DOCKET NO. TF-01-286 (RPU-98-4)
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ORDER GRANTING JOINT MOTION AND APPROVING TARIFF

(Issued December 14, 2001)

On September 17, 2001, Qwest Corporation, f/k/a U S WEST Communications, Inc. (Qwest), filed a proposed tariff with the Utilities Board (Board) designed to reduce certain rates to comply with Qwest's price regulation plan. To accomplish the majority of the decrease, Qwest proposed to reduce originating and terminating common carrier line access service in a total amount necessary to produce a 0.53 percent decrease in year two basic communications services revenues. The tariff filing has been identified as TF-01-286.

On October 18, 2001, the Board issued an order docketing the proposed tariff and establishing a procedural schedule. On November 16, 2001, the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice (Consumer Advocate) filed a motion to suspend the procedural schedule to allow the parties the opportunity to formulate an alternative procedure. The Board by order issued November 30, 2001, suspended the procedural schedule.

On December 7, 2001, the parties filed a joint motion proposing that the Board postpone a determination on the merits of Qwest's year two proposal and Consumer Advocate's objection until the judicial review of Docket No. TF-00-250 is concluded. The parties also proposed that the Board allow Qwest to immediately implement the required year two basic communications services (BCS) price decrease filed September 17, 2001, "subject to any BCS revisions on a prospective basis only that may result from the final judicial appellate decision."

The Board finds that the joint motion should be granted. The alternative procedure will allow the proposed tariffs filed by Qwest to implement the year two decreases to become effective on the date this order is issued. The Board understands and agrees with the parties that a final appellate decision in Consumer Advocate's favor will result in across-the-board year one and year two decreases implemented on a prospective basis only. No refund obligation will accrue. Those BCS prices that have received selective decreases in Docket Nos. TF-00-250 and TF-01-286 will be adjusted upward accordingly.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The "Joint Motion For Alternative Procedure" filed by the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice, Qwest Corporation, f/k/a U. S. WEST Communications, Inc., and Sprint Communications Company, L.P., is granted.

2. The proposed tariffs filed by Qwest Corporation, f/k/a U.S. WEST Communications, Inc., on September 17, 2001, to implement year two reductions under the price regulation plan are approved effective the date of this order.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 14th day of December, 2001.