

P-421/EI-89-860 ORDER EXTENDING COMMENT PERIODS

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm	Chair
Tom Burton	Commissioner
Marshall Johnson	Commissioner
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Dee Knaak	Commissioner

In the Matter of the Evaluation  
of U S WEST Communications'  
Current Incentive Regulation  
Plan and Future Regulatory  
Structures

ISSUE DATE: September 17, 1993

DOCKET NO. P-421/EI-89-860

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**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On June 29, 1993 the Commission issued an Order establishing the procedures it would use to evaluate the performance of U S WEST's incentive regulation plan. The Company was to make a detailed filing on the operation of the plan by July 1, 1993; other parties could file initial comments until September 3. Final comments by all parties were due by October 1, 1993.

On August 24, 1993 the Department of Public Service (the Department) filed a request to extend the deadline for filing initial comments. The Department stated it had retained an outside consultant to assist in preparing its comments and that the consultant's report would not be ready until November 30.

U S WEST opposed the Department's request.

The matter came before the Commission on August 31, 1993.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Commission will grant the requested time extension.

The Commission appreciates the Company's frustration at this delay, but believes the need for informed comments outweighs the advantage of enforcing the original timelines. As the Company nears the end of its five year experiment with incentive regulation, it is crucial for the Commission and other stakeholders in the regulatory process to have the best available information on how that experiment has worked. The Commission

will therefore extend the initial comment deadline to November 30 and will grant all parties 30 days from that date to file reply comments.

**ORDER**

1. The deadline for initial comments on the operation of U S WEST's incentive regulation plan is extended to November 30, 1993.
2. The deadline for reply comments is extended to December 30, 1993.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Susan Mackenzie  
Acting Executive Secretary

(S E A L)