

# QWEST CORP

## FORM 8-K (Unscheduled Material Events)

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# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

## FORM 8-K

### CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

**Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported):**

November 25, 1996

## U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

COLORADO	1-3040	84-0273800
(State or Other	(Commission	(I.R.S. Employer
Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	File Number)	Identification Number)

**7800 EAST ORCHARD ROAD  
ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO 80111**

(Address of principal executive offices) (zip code)

(303) 793-6500

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

NOT APPLICABLE

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

## **ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS**

On November 25, 1996, U S WEST Communications, Inc. issued a press release entitled "U S WEST Communications Receives King County Superior Court Decision in Washington State Rate Order Appeal." In addition, on November 26, 1997, U S WEST Communications, Inc. issued a press release entitled "U S WEST Communications To Continue Appeal of Washington State Rate Order.". The releases are attached hereto as Exhibits.

## **ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS**

(c) Exhibits

99A. Press Release, dated November 25, 1996.

99B. Press Release, dated November 26, 1996.

## **SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**U S WEST Communications, Inc.**

*By: /s/ Stephen E. Brilz  
Stephen E. Brilz  
Assistant Secretary*

*Dated: November 27, 1996*

## **EXHIBIT 99A**

U S WEST Communications, Inc.  
7800 East Orchard Road  
Englewood, Colorado 80111

[U S WEST Communications Group logo and registered mark]

### **News Flash**

November 25, 1996

#### **U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVES KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DECISION IN WASHINGTON STATE RATE ORDER APPEAL**

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. -- The King County Superior Court in Washington State today ruled on U S WEST Communications' appeal of the April 11, 1996 rate order from the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) to decrease rates in net by \$91.5 million. In its first rate increase request in 13 years, U S WEST had sought to raise rates for basic residential service. Instead, the commission ordered a revenue reduction -- primarily in highly-competitive services such as access, toll, and business local exchange service -- and ordered U S WEST Communications to set a flat fee of \$10.50 a month for basic local service -- one of the lowest rates in the nation.

Although the Company has not yet received the Court's written decision, it was informed by the Court this afternoon that it upheld the WUTC's rate order.

U S WEST Communications is disappointed by the announced outcome in this rate case. The Company will continue to exercise its legal and procedural options as appropriate, and will announce its future actions relative to this matter once it has received and reviewed the decision in full.

U S WEST Communications Group provides telecommunications and high-speed data services to more than 25 million customers in 14 western and midwestern states. The company is one of two major groups that make up U S WEST. U S WEST is in the connections business, helping customers share information, entertainment and communications services in local markets worldwide.

More information: Bruce M. Mann (303-793-6368) or Becky Winning  
(303-793-6367)

**EXHIBIT 99B**

U S WEST Communications Group  
Investor Relations  
7800 East Orchard Road, Suite 290  
Englewood, Colorado 80111  
303-793-6365

**NEWS FLASH**

November 26, 1996

**U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS TO CONTINUE APPEAL  
OF WASHINGTON STATE RATE ORDER**

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. -- U S WEST Communications Group (NYSE:USW) announced today that it will continue its appeal of the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission's April 1995 rate case decision.

In February, 1995, U S WEST Communications filed a rate case with the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC). In its first rate increase request in 13 years, U S WEST had sought to raise rates for basic residential service. In April of 1996, the WUTC denied the revenue increase and instead ordered a \$91.5 million revenue reduction -- primarily in highly-competitive services such as access, toll, and business local exchange service. The WUTC also ordered U S WEST Communications to set a flat fee of \$10.50 a month for basic local service - the second-lowest residential phone rate in the nation.

U S WEST Communications immediately filed an appeal in the King County Superior Court and requested a stay of the order. Major issues of the appeal included:

- \* Depreciation expense
- \* Imputation of yellow pages revenues
- \* Service quality
- \* Unbundling of Centrex services
- \* Operating expenses
- \* Cost studies

In April, a stay was granted pending the outcome of the King County Superior Court's ruling on the appeal.

On November 25, Judge Lasnik ruled on the appeal. In his summary decision, he upheld the WUTC on all points on the basis of the standard of review established in the State Administrative Procedure Act.

"It's not unusual for a lower court in the state of Washington to defer to the state appellate courts, and in this case, the judge's summary ruling was very brief and did not include a substantive discussion on the merits of the appeal," said Sol Trujillo, chief executive officer and president of U S WEST Communications Group. "We plan to file a notice of appeal and a motion for stay with the Washington State Supreme Court as soon as possible.

"We'll also continue to work with the Commission to resolve related issues. We believe our arguments have merit, and we will pursue all regulatory, legal and legislative options to protect our shareowners' investment in U S WEST Communications," he added.

The Company plans to ask for expedited treatment from the Court; however, the timing of related rulings is at the Court's discretion. The Company will make a decision on whether to begin accruing for the \$91.5 million revenue reduction when it receives a ruling from the appellate court, which it expects in the coming weeks.

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For more information, contact: Bruce Mann (303) 793-6368 or Becky Winning (303) 793-6367.

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**End of Filing**

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