EURO*K/8147 .59 .8

THE MATTER APPLICATION OF COMMCHOICE, LLC FOR A CEF.TIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Public Utilities Commission of the State of South Dakota

DATE 7 Received Chack and Docketel, 4/10 91 72 114 I day 1/25 97 Califor to Subware by SDITC, 5/1270 Lill brayer of Vellen to Situare by 1651C, 6/10 97 Ordin Danling COA, 6/10 97 Sacket Court

CommChoice, L.L.C.

600 Stevens Port Drive. Suite 150 ♦ Dakota Dunes. SD 57049 ♦ (605) 232-3062

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APR 0 4 1997

April 3, 1997

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

State of South Dakota Public Utility Commission Fixed Utility Division 500 F. Capitol Avenue Pierre, SD 57501

RF: Application for Certificate to Provide Competitive Local Exchange Service

Dear Sir Madam

Enclosed please find the application of CommChoice, LLC, for authority to provide local exchange service in the state of South Dakota, pursuant to S.D.C.L. Sections 49-31.3, and ARSD 20:10-24-02.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely.

Dirk J. "Jon" Winkel

President - CEO

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

In the Matter of the)
Application of CommChoice.	1
LLC, for a Certificate of) TC 96
Authority to provide)
Exchange Access and)
Exchange Access Services)

APPLICATION

I. Introduction

CommChoice, LLC hereby files this application for telecommunications services including local exchange services, intraLATA services, and as applicable, interLATA services, authority in South Dakota pursuant to S.D.C.L. Sections 49-31.3., and ARSD 20:10:24:02 Further, CommChoice hereby declares and demonstrates its proven financial, technical and managerial abilities as required.

I. Recitals

- CommChoice, LLC, One River Place, 600 Stevens Port Drive, Suite 150, Dakota
 Dunes, SD 57049-5149, hereby submits this Application for a Certificate of Authority to provide
 telecommunication services including local exchange services, intraLATA services, and as
 applicable, interLATA services, in the State of South Dakota pursuant to S.D.C.L. Sections 49
 31.3, and ARSD 20-10-24-02.
- CommChoice will provide telecommunication services including local exchange services, intraLATA services and interLATA services as a reseller under the name CommChoice, One River Place, 660 Stevens Port Drive, Suite 150, Dakota Dunes, SD 57049-5149

CommChoice was incorporated in the State of Delaware, on March 30, 1995.
 A copy of the Certificate of Authority to transact business in South Dakota from the Secretary of State is attached as Exhibit A.

CommChoice's principal office is located at One River Place, 600 Stevens Port Drive, Suite 150, Dakota Dunes, SD 57049-5149. CommChoice's registered agent is

> The Corporation Trust Company Corporation Trust Center 1209 Orange Street Wilmington, DE 19801

Charles A. Long has 100% ownership interest in CommChoice. Mr. Long's business address is:

Mr. Charles A. Long 600 Stevens Port Drive, # 150 Dakota Dunes, SD 57049

CommChoice neither owns nor controls any other entity.

- CommChoice is not a partnership, it is a limited liability company.
- 5 CommChoice will provide telecommunications services including local exchange services, intraLATA services and interLATA services through a combination of reseller and facilities-based provisioning. The specific products and services are in part dependent upon resale agreements entered into with local exchange companies.
- 6. CommChoice will enter into agreements with local exchange companies for the resale of telecommunications services. These services will be provided by the local exchange company in the same manner they have been provided in the past.

7. Imitally, telecommunication services will be offered to commercial and industrial businesses located in South Dakota cities served by US West. As resale agreements with other local exchange companies are executed. CommChoice will expand its service territory to include additional cities. Eventually, CommChoice may offer telecommunication services throughout the State of South Dakota. As required by the PUC. CommChoice will request authority and authorization to offer telecommunications services in rural areas not served by US West.

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CommChoice requests a waiver from ARSD 20-10:24-02 (7) which requires a map describing the service area be included with this Application. Until resale agreements with local exchange companies are in place. CommChoice will not know the specific geographic area to be served. CommChoice will file the required information with the Commission, as required by the PUC.

 CommChoice is a limited liability company. Annual Report Information is not available, as this is a recently formed entity.

CommChoice requests a waiver from ARSD 20-10:24-02 (8) which requires tariffs and terms and conditions of service to be filed. The cost to provide local exchange service cannot be estimated until resale interconnection agreements between the parties have been reached and contracts executed. When the specific costs and contractual arrangements are known, rates and terms and conditions will be filed with the Commission, as required by the PUC.

Customer billing and customer service matters will be provided pursuant to
 ARSD 20-10-05 through ARSD 20-10-10. Specific terms and conditions will be filed with the

Commission as required by the PUC

Inquiries regarding complaints and regulatory matters should be addressed to Paul Bergmann, Vice President of CommChoice (605-232-3062), at One River Place, 600 Stevens Port Drive, Suite 150, Dakota Dunes, SD 57049-5149.

 CommChoice is in the process of applying for authority to provide telecommunications services in the states of Iowa and Nebraska. CommChoice has no current business operations.

11 CommChoice is a recently formed company, established to provide competitive telecommunications services. The company is a affiliate of Northwest Iowa Telephone Company (Northwest Iowa). Northwest Iowa has been providing telecommunications services in the state of Iowa since 1942. CommChoice will leverage the managerial and technical experience of Northwest Iowa as it ventures into the provisioning of competitive telecommunications services. In this way, CommChoice will provide to the residents of South Dakota the same high standard of customer service, network rehability, and availability of advanced services the subscribers of Northwest Iowa have come to expect.

CommChoice will market telecommunication services by its trained direct sales consultants. All sales consultants, sales support, customer service personnel and support personnel will be highly trained professionals in the area of telecommunications. CommChoice does not use any form of multi-level marketing services. Company brochures and collateral materials will be developed after completion of negotiation and execution of contracts with the local exchange carriers.

12. CommChoice requests a waiver from ARSD 20.10:24.02 (12) which requires. CommChoice to file cost support for rates shown in the company's tariff. Cost support for services cannot be compiled until the terms and conditions of resale contracts have been negotiated with US West and other local exchange carriers. Upon completion of negotiations, CommChoice will submit cost support data for rates to the Commission, as required by the PUC.

WHEREFORE, CommChoice requests the Commission issue an Order granting CommChoice a certificate of authority to provide local exchange services, intraLATA access services, and as applicable, interLATA services, in the State of South Dakota.

> Respectfully Submitted. CommChoice

on Winkel President CommChoice, LLC

State of South Bakota



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

 JOYCE HAZELTIME, Secretary of State or the State or South Oaksia, hereby certify that the Application for a Certificate of Authority of COMPADICE L.L.C. (01) to transact business in this state duly signed and resified pursuant to the previsions of the South Gastel Liabitad Liability Lospany act, have been received in this orfice and are found to central to law.

ACCORDIACLY and by virtue of the suthority vested in many law. I hereby issue this Certificate of Authority and attach horato a duplicate of the application to transact business in this state under the name of COMPCHOICE L.C.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and effixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, at Tierre, the Capital, this December U, 1994.

Secretary of State

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APR | 11 1997 SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

April 4, 1997

Mr. Dirk J. "Jon" Winkel President - CEO CommChoice LLC 600 Stevens Port Drive, Suite 150 Dakota Dunes, SD, 57049

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY CommChoice LLC

Dear Mr. Winkel

We received your Application for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a telecommunications company in the State of South Dakota Pursuant to SDCL 49-31-3, telecommunication companies shall submit a \$250 application fee when filing

SDCL 49-31-3: Each telecommunications company shall file an application for a certificate of authority with the commission no less than sixty days prior to initiating any telecommunications service in this state. Each telecommunications company shall submit a two hundred fifty dollar application fee with its application which shall be deposited into the gross receipts tax fund established pursuant to § 49-1A-2.

We cannot take any action on your application until we receive the applicable fee

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter

Sincerely

Walne Kaske Delaine Kolbo

Legal Secretary

Capitol Office Telephone (605)773-3201 FAX 16051773-3809

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Transportation Warehouse Division Lelephone (605)773.5280 FAX (605)773-3225

1-800-332-1782

III Through Relay South Dakota 1-800-877-1113

Internet billb a puc state ad us

Jim Burg Pam Nelson Laska Schoenfelder

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South Dakota

Public Utilities Commission State Capitol 500 E. Capitol Pierre, SD 57501-5070 Phone: (800) 332-1782 Fax: (605) 773-3809

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE FILINGS

$04/04/97\ through\ 04/10/97$ If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overhight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact Delaine Kolbo within five days of this filing.

DOCKET NUMBER	TITLE/STAFF/SYNOPSIS	DATE FILED	INTERVENTION DEADLINE
	REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY		
TC97:034	Application by Long Distance Direct Holdings. Inc. (LDDH) for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a telecommunications company within the state of South Daxota. (Staff. 18/CH). "LDDH intends to subscribe to and reself all forms of teleponal service including local dial forms of teleponal Service. Which are represented in the service including local dial forms services be lines access service cellular service local switched service and other services and facilities of communications common carriers and other entires. LDDH intends to provide service to both reservices and business class customers. LDDH has afready obtained permission from the Commission to provide interexchange service. LDDH-bits proposed traffic satisfaced for the applications."	04/07/97	04 25 97
TC97-035	Application by CommChoice LLC for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a telecommunications company within the state of South Daxida. (Staff TSKC). CommChoice will provide telecommunications services including local exchange services intra LETA services through a combination of reseller and facilities beased provisioning. The specific products and services are in part dependent upon resale agreements entered into with local exchange companies. CommChoice will enter into agreements with local exchange companies for the resale of telecommunications services will be provided by the local exchange companies for the resale of telecommunications services will be offered to commercial and industrial businesses located in South Davids calculated to commercial and industrial businesses located in South Davids calculated to the Service of the Service for Service for the Service for the Service for Service for Service for the Service for S	04/10/97	04 25.97

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Bette Dozier Administrative Assistant

April 25, 1997

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Mr. Bill Bullard, Executive Director South Dakota Public Utilities Commission State Capitol Building

Pierre, SD 57501

APR 25 1997

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

RE: TC97-035

Dear Bill

Enclosed for filing you will find the original and ten copies of SDITC's Petition to Intervene in the above referenced docket. As indicated by the Certificate of Service, also provided, all other parties of record have received a copy by US Postal Service.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Co Executive Director and General Counsel

Jon Winkel

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION RECEIVED

OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

	F THE APPLICATION OF FOR A CERTIFICATE OF)	
AUTHORITY TO	PROVIDE EXCHANGE)	DOCKET TC97-03
ACCESS AND	EXCHANGE ACCESS)	
REDVICES		1	

Petition to Intervene

The South Dakota Independent Telephone Coalition ("SDITC") hereby petitions the Commission for intervention in the above captioned proceeding pursuant to SDCL 1-26-17.1 and ARSD §§ 20 10 01 15 02, 20 10 01 15 03 and 20 10 01 15 05. In support hereof, SDITC states as follows.

- SDITC is an incorporated organization representing the interests of numerous cooperative, independent and municipal telephone companies operating throughout the State of South Dakota
- 2. As expressly noted in the Bylaws of SDITC, duly adopted by the Coalition, "one of the primary purposes for the formation and existence of the South Dakota Independent Telephone Coalition is representation by the Coalition before the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission." The member companies of SDITC have delegated to the SDITC Board of Directors and its President the authority to intervene on their behalf in PUC proceedings which will or might potentially impact their common interests.
- 3 The application for certification filed by CommChoice, LLC ("CommChoice") is unclear as to precisely where in South Dakota the company is seeking authority to provide competitive local exchange services. Paragraph 7 of the filed application does indicate that eventually CommChoice may offer its services throughout the State.
- 4 SDITC member companies operate as incumbent LECs and "rural telephone companies" throughout South Dakota. If in fact CommChoice with its present application is

seeking authority for existing exchanges areas other than those served by US WEST Communications, SDITC member companies will be impacted by and have a pecuniary interest in this docket. To the extent CommChoice seeks local service authority in rural telephone company service areas or the Commission in this proceeding addresses issues relating to how CommChoice will be regulated or what types of service obligations may be imposed on the company, SDITC member company interests will be affected.

- 5 SDITC member companies are especially concerned that any action taken in this docket be consistent with and not hinder or otherwise affect the Commission's ability under the Federal Telecommunications Act to appropriately condition competitive entry into "service areas" operated by "rural telephone companies". (See 47 U.S.C. Sections 251(f)(1), 253(b) and 253(f)). The Commission in ruling on other applications for certification to provide local exchange telecommunications services, has included language in its final orders preserving its authority to address rural safeguard issues in later proceedings prior to the time that competing providers actually begin to offer or provide their services in any exchange areas served by rural telephone companies. It is SDITC's position that the same action should be taken in this proceeding
- 6 Based on the foregoing, SDITC in its authorized representative capacity is an interested party to this proceeding and seeks intervention herein

SDITC respectfully requests permission to intervene on behalf of its member companies and an opportunity to be heard in this matter

Dated this 25 day of April, 1997

THE SOUTH DAKOTA INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE COALITION

Ву

Executive Director and General Counsel

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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I hereby certify that an original and ten copies of SDITC's Initial Brief was hand delivered on the days of April, 1997, to the following person:

William Bullard Jr. Executive Director South Dakota Public Utilities Commission State of South Dakota 500 East Capitol Pietre, SD 57501

And a true and correct copy was delivered via the US Postal Service addressed to the following person

Jon Winkel President, CommChoice LLC One River Place 600 Stevens Port Drive, Suite 150 Dakota Dunes, SD 57049-5149

Richard D. Con

Executive Director SDITC 207 East Capitol, Suite 206

Pierre, SD 57501

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Bette Dozier Administrative Assistant

Mr. Rill Rullard Executive Director South Dakota Public Utilities Commission State Capitol Building Pierre SD 57501

and LDM Systems, respectively)

SOUTH DARROTA PUBLIC RE. Petitions to Intervene in Dockets TC97-034, TC97-035 and TC97-038 (Applications for local service authority filed by LDDH, Comchoice,

Dear Bill

Please accept this letter as notice that SDITC is withdrawing its Petitions to Intervene filed in the above referenced dockets. The Petitions were filed by SDITC merely to offer comment, if necessary, to ensure that Commission orders issued on the pending local service applications are consistent with how the Commission has addressed previous similar certifications - specifically, that language be included in the orders preserving rural safeguards provided for under the Federal Telecommunications Act

I've discussed our filings for intervention with Tammy Stangor of Staff and she has indicated that Staff recommendations on the applications for certification will be consistent with the Commission's previous local service orders and will request inclusion of the necessary rural safeguard language. Accordingly, I am satisfied that our concerns will be properly addressed and I wish to withdraw the SDITC intervention requests

A copy of this letter has been faxed this afternoon to the applicant companies

If there are questions or anything further needs to be done, please advise

Smoerely

Executive Director and General Counsel

Patrick D. Crocker Jon Winkel David O. Klein

RDC/ms

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) ORDER GRANTING COMMCHOICE, LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF) CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE) AUTHORITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN) SOUTH DAKOTA) TC97-035

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On April 10, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from CommChoice, LLC (CommChoice) for a Certificate of Authority to provide telecommunications services in South Dakota. The application stated "CommChoice will provide telecommunications services including local exchange services, intraLATA services and interLATA services through a combination of reseller and facilities-based provisioning. The specific products and services are in part dependent upon resale agreements entered into with local exchange companies. CommChoice will enter into agreements with local exchange companies for the resale of telecommunications services These services will be provided by the local exchange company in the same manner they have been provided in the past. Initially, telecommunications services will be offered to commercial and industrial businesses located in South Dakota cities served by U.S.WEST As resale agreements with other local exchange companies are executed. CommChoice will expand its service territory to include additional cities. CommChoice requests a waiver from ARSD 20 10 24 02 (8) which requires tariffs and terms and conditions of service to be filed. The cost to provide local exchange service cannot be estimated until resale interconnection agreements between the parties have been reached and contracts executed. When the specific costs and contractual arrangements are known, rates and terms and conditions will be filed with the Commission, as required by the PUC

On April 10, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 25, 1997, to interested individuals and entities. On April 25, 1997, South Dakota Independent Telephone Companies (SDITC) filed a petition to intervene. SDITC withdraw its intervention on May 12, 1997.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of June 3, 1997, the Commission considered CommChoice's request for a Certificate of Authority. Commission Staff recommended approval of the Certificate of Authority and also granting a waiver of ARSD 20.10.24.02 (7), (8), and (12).

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31 and ARSD Chapter 20.10.24. The Commission finds that CommChoice has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a Certificate of Authority CommChoice has in accordance with the above order authority demonstrated sufficient technical financial and managenal capabilities to offer telecommunications services in South Dakota. Pursuant to ARSD 20.10.24.02 the Commission finds good cause to waive subparagraphs (7). (8) and (12) because the information required by these subparagraphs is dependent on the outcome of negotiations or arbitrations between CommChoice and local exchange carriers.

Further the Commission finds that pursuant to CommChoice's request the Certificate of Authority for CommChoice shall authorize it to offer its services in those areas in South Dakota where U.S.WEST Communications. Inc. is the incumbent local exchange carrier. In the future should CommChoice choose to provide services statewide with respect to rural telephone companies. CommChoice will have to come before the Commission in another proceeding before being able to provide service in that rural service area pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 253(f) which allows the Commission to require a company that seeks to provide service in a rural service area to meet the requirements in 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1) for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier. In addition the granting of statewide certification will not affect the exemptions, suspensions, and modifications for rural telephone companies found in 47 U.S.C. § 251(f). Subject to the above, the Commission approves CommChoice's application for a Certificate of Authority. As the Commission's final decision in this matter. It is therefore

ORDERED, that CommChoice's application for a Certificate of Authority to provide local exchange services is granted, effective June 10, 1997, and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission shall authorize CommChoice to offer its services in those areas in South Dakota where U.S.WEST Communications, Inc. is the incumbent local exchange carrier, and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission finds good cause to waive subparagraphs (7), (8), and (12) of ARSD 20 10 24 02.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 10th day of June, 1997

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket as listed on the docket service list by facsimile or by first class mail in properly addressed envelopes. With charges

De 6/14/97

OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

JAMES A BURG, Chairman

PAM NELSON, Commissioner

LASKA SCHOENFELDER COMMISSIONER

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

To Conduct Business As A Telecommunications Company Within The State Of South Dakota

Authority was Granted June 3, 1997, effective June 10, 1997 Docket No. TC97-035

This is to certify that

COMMCHOICE, LLC

is authorized to provide telecommunications services in South Dakota.

This certificate is issued in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and ARSD 20.10.24.02, and is subject to all of the conditions and limitations contained in the rules and statutes governing its conduct of offering telecommunications services.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 10 day of Aunt, 1997

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION:

JAMES A BURG

PAM NELSON Commissione

LASKA SCHOENFELDER Commissioner

Comm Choice

August 13, 1997

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AUG 7 II 1997
SCH IN EARL TA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Mr. Bill Bullard, Executive Director South Dakota Public Utilities Commission State Capitol Building Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mr. Bullard.

Enclosed please find one original and ten copies of the CLEC Telephone Tariff and the Intrastate Tariff for CommChoice L.L.C. to be filed with the South Dakota Utilities Board.

Thank you fer your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Paul Bergmann

Chief Operating Officer

jvr

Enclosures

Jareffs are in Harlans affice.