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58602-0370

November 26, 1997

South Dakota Public Service Commission  
Attn: Mr. William Bullard, Executive Director  
State Capitol Building  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57502-5070

RECEIVED

DEC 01 1997

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Re: **Application for Certificate of Authority**

Dear Mr. Bullard:

Consolidated Communications Networks, Inc., requests a Certificate of Authority to provide long distance telephone service to South Dakota customers.

Enclosed is the Application for Certificate of Authority, a Certificate of Authority from the South Dakota Secretary of State, and a rate schedule (tariff). Also included is a copy of a balance sheet from Consolidated Telephone Cooperative. The new corporation does not have financial information available at this time.

If you have any questions regarding this request or need any additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

HOWE, HARDY, GALLOWAY & MAUS, P.C.



Michael J. Maus

MJM:lj

Enclosures

cc: CCNI

## APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

Consolidated Communications Networks, Inc. ("CCNI"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Consolidated Telephone Cooperative, submits the following information in support of an Application for Certificate of Authority pursuant to Section 49-31-3 of the South Dakota Code.

1. Name, address and telephone number of the applicant: Consolidated Communications Networks, Inc., 507 South Main, Dickinson, North Dakota 58601; telephone number (701)225-6061.

2. Name under which applicant will provide these services if different than in subdivision (1) of this section: Consolidated Long Distance.

3. If the applicant is a Corporation: Consolidated Communications Networks, Inc., is a corporation:

- (a) State Incorporated: North Dakota  
Date of Incorporation: May 2, 1996  
See attached Certificate of Authority from State of South Dakota
- (b) Location of Principal Office: 507 South Main, Dickinson, ND 58601.  
Name and address of Registered Agent: Jerry Reisenauer, Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.
- (c) CTC Enterprises, Inc., a holding company and wholly owned subsidiary of Consolidated Telephone Cooperative
- (d) None.

4. If applicant is a partnership, name, title and business address of each partner: N/A.

5. A specific description of the telecommunications services the applicant intends to offer: Long distance.

6. A detailed statement of the means by which the applicant will provide its services, including the type and quantity of equipment to be used in the operation, the capacity and the expected use of the equipment: CCNI will be reselling long distance services provided by an underlying carrier. As such, there is no equipment utilized in the operation aside from that provided by the local telephone companies.

7. The geographic areas in which the services will be

offered, including a map describing the service area: anywhere in South Dakota.

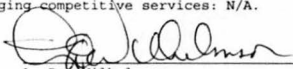
8. A current balance and income statement: A copy of applicant's latest annual report; a copy of the applicant's report to stockholders' and a copy of applicant's tariff with the terms and conditions of service: attached.

9. The names and addresses of the applicant's representatives to whom all inquiries should be made regarding complaints and regulatory matters and a description of how the applicant handles customer billings and customer service matters: L. Dan Wilhelmson or Paul Schuetzler, 507 South Main, Dickinson, ND 58601. Customer billings and inquiries will be handled through the local telephone operations. Customers will see the long distance charges on the bill from their local telephone company and any inquiries regarding customer service will follow local telephone operating procedures.

10. A list of the states in which the applicant is registered or certified to do business and if the applicant has ever been denied registration or certification in any state and the reasons for the denial: Applicant is registered to do business in North Dakota and South Dakota and has never been denied registration or certification in any state.

11. A detailed description of how the applicant intends to market its services, the qualifications of its marketing sales personnel, its target market, whether the applicant engages in any multilevel marketing, and copies of any company brochures used to assist in the sale of services: Consolidated intends to market its services to business and residential customers through direct mail and customer referrals: Our marketing staff consists of three (3) product managers, one (1) supervisor of customer services and six (6) sales and marketing personnel. We do not engage in any multilevel marketing promotions. Copies of preliminary marketing materials are enclosed.

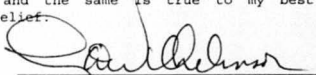
12. Cost support for rates shown in the company's tariff for all non-competitive or emerging competitive services: N/A.



L. Dan Wilhelmson  
General Manager and CEO


STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA     )  
                                  ss  
COUNTY OF STARK            )

L. Dan Wilhelmson, being first duly sworn, states that I am the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of Consolidated Communications Networks, Inc., that I have read the Application for Certificate of Authority, and the same is true to my best information, knowledge and belief.



L. Dan Wilhelmson

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1997.



Michael J. Maus, Notary Public  
State of North Dakota

My Comm. Expires: 07/05/02

(SEAL)

# State of South Dakota



## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

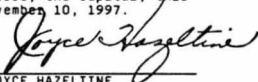
### CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

I, JOYCE HAZELTINE, Secretary of State of the State of South Dakota, hereby certify that the Application for a Certificate of Authority of CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, INC. (ND) to transact business in this state duly signed and verified pursuant to the provisions of the South Dakota Corporation Acts, have been received in this office and are found to conform to law.

ACCORDINGLY and by virtue of the authority vested in me by law, I hereby issue this Certificate of Authority and attach hereto a duplicate of the application to transact business in this state under the name of CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, INC.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, at Pierre, the Capital, this November 10, 1997.

  
JOYCE HAZELTINE  
Secretary of State

REGULATIONS RATES AND SCHEDULE  
OF CHARGES APPLICABLE TO  
MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES  
FURNISHED BY

CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, INC.

BETWEEN POINTS WITHIN  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
FOR INTRASTATE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES  
FOR INTRASTATE CUSTOMERS  
AS PROVIDED FOR HEREIN.

All material in this Tariff is new.

Service is provided by means of wire, radio, terrestrial, or satellite facilities or any combination thereof, as specified herein.

- \* This filing is made in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission's August 16, 1993 Memorandum Opinion and Order in the Matter of Tariff Filing Requirements for Nondominant Common Carriers CC Docket No. 93-36, FCC 93-401, 58 Fed. Reg. 44457 (Aug. 23, 1993), and the rules and regulations adopted therein, as modified by Public Notice DA 98-28, released March 6, 1997.

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Consolidated Communications Networks, Inc.  
507 S. Main Street  
Dickinson, North Dakota 58601

INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

CHECK SHEET

The title page and pages 1 through 45 inclusive of this Tariff are effective as of the dates shown. Original and revised pages, as named below, comprise all changes from the original Tariff in effect on the date indicated.

Page	Revision	Page	Revision
1	Original	26	Original
2	Original	27	Original
3	Original	28	Original
4	Original	29	Original
5	Original	30	Original
6	Original	31	Original
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8	Original	33	Original
9	Original	34	Original
10	Original	35	Original
11	Original	36	Original
12	Original	37	Original
13	Original	38	Original
14	Original	39	Original
15	Original	40	Original
16	Original	41	Original
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19	Original	44	Original
20	Original	45	Original
21	Original		
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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

CONCURRING CARRIERS

None

CONNECTING CARRIERS

None

OTHER PARTICIPATING CARRIERS

None

REGISTERED SERVICE MARKS

None

REGISTERED TRADEMARKS

None

EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

- (C) - To signify changed regulation  
 (D) - To signify discontinued rate of regulation  
 (I) - To signify increase  
 (M) - To signify matter relocated without change  
 (N) - To signify new rate or regulation  
 (R) - To signify reduction  
 (S) - To signify reissued matter  
 (T) - To signify a change in text but no change in rate or regulation  
 (Z) - To signify a correction

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

**I. General****1.1 Application of Tariff**

1.1.A This Tariff contains the regulations and rates applicable to the provision of Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service, hereinafter referred to as "Service", by Consolidated Communications Networks, Inc., hereafter referred to as the "Company", from its points of presence in the States of North Dakota and South Dakota to domestic points, as specified herein. Service is furnished subject to the availability of facilities and subject to transmission, atmospheric and like conditions.

1.1.B The provision of such Service by the Company as set forth in this Tariff does not constitute a joint undertaking with the Customer for the furnishing of any Service.

**1.2 Definitions**

Certain terms used throughout this Tariff are defined as follows:

**1.2.A Access Code**

A sequence of numbers that, when dialed, connect the caller to the Provider associated with that sequence.

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 507 S. Main Street  
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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 1. General (Cont'd)

1.2 Definitions (Cont'd)1.2.B Aggregator

Any person that, in the ordinary course of its operations, makes telephones available to the public or to transient users of its premises, for intrastate telephone calls using a Provider of Operator Services.

1.2.C Application for Service

A standard order form which includes all pertinent billing, technical, and other descriptive information which will enable the Company to provide the Service as required.

1.2.D Authorization Code

A numerical code, one or more of which may be assigned to a Customer to enable the Company to identify the origin of the user or individual users or groups of users on one account so that the Company may rate and bill the call.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 1. General (Cont'd)

1.2 Definitions (Cont'd)1.2.E Billed Party

The person or entity responsible for payment of the Company's service for an Operator Assisted Call, as follows:

12.E.1 in the case of a Room Charge call, the Subscriber;

12.E.2 in the case of a Calling Card or Credit Card call, the holder of the calling card or credit card used by the consumer; and

12.E.3 in the case of a Collect or Third Party call, the person responsible for the local telephone service at the telephone number that agrees to accept charges for the call.

1.2.F Call Splashing

The transfer of a telephone call from one provider to another such provider in such a manner that the subsequent provider is unable or unwilling to determine the location of the origination of the call and, because of such inability or unwillingness, is prevented from billing the call on the basis of such location.

1.2.G Commission

The Federal Communications Commission.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 1. General (Cont'd)

## 1.2 Definitions (Cont'd)

1.2.H Common Carrier

A company or entity providing telecommunications services to the public.

1.2.I Company

Consolidated Communications Networks, Inc., unless the context indicates otherwise.

1.2.J Consumer

A person initiating any intrastate telephone call.

1.2.K Customer

Any individual, partnership, association, trust, corporation, cooperative or governmental agency or other entity which utilizes the Services provided by the Company on a subscription basis. A Customer, as set forth herein, is responsible for the payment of charges and for compliance with all applicable terms of the Company's Tariff.

1.2.L Customer Dialed Calling Card Call

A Calling Card Call which is dialed by the Customer and may or may not require intervention by an attended operator position to complete.

1.2.M Customer Provided Equipment

Terminal Equipment or facilities provided by persons other than the Company and connected to the Company's Services and/or facilities.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 1. General (Cont'd)

## 1.2 Definitions (Cont'd)

1.2.N Dialed Access

An arrangement whereby a Customer uses the public switched network facilities of a local exchange telephone company to access the terminal of the Company.

1.2.O Domestic Message Telecommunications Service (MTS)

The term "Domestic Message Telecommunications Service" denotes the furnishing of station-to-station direct dial intrastate switched network services to the Customer for the completion of long distance voice and dial up low speed data transmissions over voice grade channel from the Company's Points of Presence to domestic points as specified herein.

1.2.P Equal Access

Has the meaning given that term in Appendix B of the Modification of Final Judgment entered August 24, 1982, in United States v. Western Electric, Civil Action No. 820192 (United States District Court, District of Columbia), as amended by the Court in its orders issued prior to October 17, 1990.

1.2.Q Equal Access Code

An access code that allows the public to obtain an Equal Access connection to the carrier associated with that code.

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INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

1. General (Cont'd)

1.2 Definitions (Cont'd)

1.2.R Local Exchange Carrier (LEC)

A telephone company which furnishes local exchange services.

1.2.S Measured Usage Charge or Measured Charge

A charge assessed on a per-minute basis in calculating all or portion of the charges due for a completed call over the Company's facilities.

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INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

1. General (Cont'd)

1.2 Definitions (Cont'd)

1.2.T Other Common Carrier

The term "Other Common Carrier" denotes a common carrier, other than the Company, providing domestic or international communications service to the public.

1.2.U Premises

The space designated by a Customer as its place or places of business for provision of Service or for its own communications needs.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## I. General (Cont'd)

1.2 Definitions (Cont'd)1.2.V Presubscribed Provider of Operator Services

The intrastate Provider of Operator Services to which the Consumer is connected when the Consumer places a call using a Provider of Operator Services without dialing an access code.

1.2.W Provider of Operator Services

Any common carrier that provides operator Services or any other person determined by the Federal Communications Commission to be providing Operator Services.

1.2.X Service

The offerings by the Company to the Customer under this Tariff.

1.2.Y Subscriber

An Aggregator that selects the Company as the Presubscribed provider of Operator Services for one or more locations within that Aggregator's control.

1.2.Z Subscriber Surcharge

A surcharge imposed by the Subscriber, to be paid by the consumer, for the use of Subscriber's telephone instruments, and other facilities in obtaining access to the Company's services.

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Dickinson, North Dakota 58601

## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## I. General (Cont'd)

1.2 Definitions (Cont'd)1.2.AA Telecommunications

The transmission of voice communications or, subject to the transmission capabilities of the service, the transmission of data, facsimile, signalling, metering, or any other form of intelligence.

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Dickinson, North Dakota 58601

## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Services

2.1 Undertaking of the Company2.1.A Scope

The Company is a carrier providing intrastate domestic communications services to Customers for their direct transmission of voice, data and other types of telecommunications within the United States as described in this Tariff.

2.1.B Limitations

2.1.B.1 The services provided pursuant to this Tariff are offered subject to the availability of facilities and the other provisions of this Tariff.

2.1.B.2 The Company does not undertake to transmit communications or messages, but rather furnishes facilities, Service and equipment for such transmissions by the Customer.

2.1.B.3 The Company retains the right to deny Service to any Customer which fails to comply with the rules and regulations of this Tariff, or other applicable rules, regulations or laws.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

2.2 Obligations of the Customer

2.2.A All Customers assume general responsibilities in connection with the provision and use of the Company's Service. General responsibilities are described in this section. When facilities, equipment, and/or communication systems provided by others are connected to the Company's facilities, the Customer assumes the additional responsibilities as set forth in Section 2.2, herein.

2.2.B The Customer is responsible for the payment of all charges for any and all Services or facilities provided by the Company to the Customer.

2.2.C Subject to availability, the Customer may use specific codes to identify the users groups on its account and to allocate the cost of its service accordingly. The numerical composition of such codes shall be set forth by the Company to assure compatibility with the Company's accounting and automation systems and to avoid duplication of such specific codes.

2.2.D The Company reserves the right to discontinue the use of any code provided to the Customer and to substitute another code for such Customer's use.

2.2.E The Customer shall indemnify and hold harmless the Company from and against all loss, liability, damage and expense, including reasonable counsel fees, due to claims for libel, slander, or infringement of copyright or trademark in connection with any material transmitted by the Customer using the Company's Services; and any other claim resulting from any act or omission of the Customer to the use of the Company's facilities.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

2.2 Obligations of the Customer(Cont'd)

- 2.2.F Nothing contained herein, or in any other provision of this Tariff, or in any marketing materials issued by the Company shall give any Customer or person any ownership interest or proprietary right in any particular code issued by Company; provided, however, that a Customer that continues to subscribe to Company's Services will be provided a replacement code in the event such Customer's initial code is canceled.
- 2.2.G The Customer shall reimburse the Company for damages to the Company's facilities caused by any negligence or willful act or acts on the part of the Customer.
- 2.2.H The Customer shall pay and hold the Company harmless from the payment of all charges for service ordered by the Customer from the Local Exchange Carriers or other entities for telecommunications services and/or facilities connecting the Customer and the Company.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

2.2 Obligations of the Customer(Cont'd)

- 2.2.I In the event a suit is brought by the Company, or an attorney is retained by the Company to collect any bill or enforce the terms of this Tariff against a Customer, that Customer shall be responsible for payment of all reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, costs of investigation and any and all other related costs and expenses incurred by the Company in connection therewith.
- 2.2.J The Customer understands that the Services are furnished subject to the condition that there will be no abuse, fraudulent and/or illegal use thereof. Such activity includes, but is not limited to:
- 2.2.J.1 Using the Service for any purpose which is in violation of any law.
- 2.2.J.2 Obtaining or attempting to obtain Services through any scheme, false representation and/or use of any fraudulent means or devices whatsoever with the intent to avoid payment, in whole or in part, of charges for Services, or assisting any other person or firm in such regard.
- 2.2.J.3 Attempting to, or actually obtaining, accessing, altering, or interfering with the communications and/or information by rearranging, tampering with or making any connection with any facilities of the Company or assisting any other person or firm in such regard.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

2.2 Obligations of the Customer(Cont'd)

- 2.2.J The Customer understands that the Services are furnished subject to the condition that there will be no abuse, fraudulent and/or illegal use thereof. Such activity includes, but is not limited to:
- 2.2.J.4 Using the Services in a manner that interferes unreasonably with the use of Service by one or more other Customers.
- 2.2.J.5 Using the Service to convey information deemed to be obscene, salacious, or prurient, to impersonate another person with fraudulent or malicious intent, to call another person or persons so frequently, at such times, or in such a manner as to annoy, abuse, or harass, or to convey information of a nature or in a manner that renders such conveyance unlawful.
- 2.2.K The Customer, not the Company, shall be responsible for compliance with FCC Rules, 47 C.F.R. Part 68, and for all maintenance of such equipment and/or facilities.

2.3 Liabilities of the Company

- 2.3.A Except as stated in this Section 2.3, the Company shall have no liability for damages of any kind arising out of or related to events, acts, rights or privileges contemplated in this Tariff.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

2.3 Liabilities of the Company(Cont'd)

- 2.3.B The liability of the Company for damages resulting in whole or in part from or arising in connection with the furnishing of Service under this Tariff, including, but not limited to, mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, errors or other defects or misrepresentations shall not exceed an amount equal to the charges under this Tariff applicable to the specific call (or portion thereof) that was affected. No other liability shall attach to the Company.
- 2.3.C The Company shall not be liable for any failure of performance hereunder due to causes beyond its control, including, but not limited to: (1) acts of God, fires, flood or other catastrophes; (2) any law, order, regulation, directive, action or request of the United States Government, or any other government, including state and local governments having jurisdiction over the Company, or of any department, agency, commission, bureau, corporation or other instrumentality of any one or more of said governments, or of any civil or military authority; or (3) national emergencies, insurrections, riots, wars or other labor difficulties.
- 2.3.D The Company shall not be liable for any act or omission of any other entity furnishing facilities, equipment, or services used by a Customer, with the Company's Services. In addition, the Company shall not be liable for any damages or losses due to the failure or negligence of any Customer or due to the failure of Customer Provided Equipment, facilities or services.

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507 S. Main Street  
Dickinson, North Dakota 58601

## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

2.4 Service Orders

The Customer must place an Application for Service with the Company to initiate, cancel or change the Services provided pursuant to this Tariff. All Applications for Services must be in writing and provide, at a minimum, the following information:

- 2.4.A Customer's name(s), telephone number(s) and address(es). In the case of a corporation or partnership, a designated officer or agent shall be named as the contact person for such corporation or partnership.
- 2.4.B Name(s), address(es) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to whom notices from the Company to the Customer shall be addressed, if different from (A) above.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

2.5 Charges and Payments for Service or Facilities2.5.A Deposits

- 2.5.A.1 The Company may, in order to safeguard its interests, require a Customer to make a suitable deposit or provide a surety bond or letter of credit in the amount of the required deposit as a guarantee of the payment of charges. The Company shall have the right to require the Customer to make a deposit prior to or at any time after provision of any Service, not to exceed two (2) months estimated charges. The Company may increase the amount of the deposit to reflect increases to the Customer's annual bill. The Customer will receive a receipt for the deposit.
- 2.5.A.2 Any deposit as referred to in this Section shall be held by the Company to secure the payment of the Customer's bill. At the Company's option, the deposit may be refunded or credited to the Customer at any time prior to the termination of Service.
- 2.5.A.3 Interest will be paid by the Company on all sums held on deposit at the rate established annually by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for customer deposits. The interest will be accrued for the period during which the deposit is held by the Company.

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## 2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Services(Cont'd)

2.5 Charges and Payments for Service or Facilities(Cont'd)2.5.A Deposits (Cont'd)

2.5.A.4 The fact that a deposit is made does not relieve the Customer from making advance payments or from complying with the Company's regulations for the payment of bills in accordance with the terms herein and does not constitute a waiver or modification of the regulations of the Company providing for the discontinuance of Service for nonpayment of any sums due the Company for Service rendered.

2.5.A.5 Upon termination of Service, and assuming deposits of the Customer are not applied as indicated in Section 2.5.A.2, the deposit will be credited to the Customer's account and any credit balance will be refunded after all amounts due the Company have been paid.

2.5.B Description of Payment and Billing Periods

2.5.B.1 Service is provided and billed on a monthly basis. Service continues to be provided and billed on a monthly basis until canceled by the Customer through notice given to the Company.

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## 2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Services(Cont'd)

2.5 Charges and Payments for Service or Facilities(Cont'd)2.5.B Description of Payment and Billing Periods(Cont'd)

2.5.B.2 When billing functions are performed by a Local Exchange Carrier (LEC), commercial credit card company or others, the payment conditions and requirements of such LECs apply, including any applicable interest.

2.5.B.3 In the event a Local Exchange Carrier, commercial credit card company or others ceases efforts to collect any amounts associated with the Company's charges, the Company may bill the Customer or the called party directly, and may utilize its own billing and collection procedures which shall be consistent with all applicable statutes, rules and regulations.

2.5.C Taxes, Gross Revenue, Gross Income, and Gross Earnings Surcharges

2.5.C.1 Sales tax is covered by state statute and other applicable taxes may be covered by state or federal statutes. Such taxes may be included on Customer bills in accordance with any applicable rules of the state or federal regulatory authority.

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INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

2.5 Charges and Payments for Service or Facilities(Cont'd)

2.5.C Taxes, Gross Revenue, Gross Income, and Gross Earnings Surcharges (Cont'd)

2.5.C.2 In addition to all recurring, non-recurring, minimum, usage, surcharges or special charges, the Customer identified in this Tariff shall also be responsible for and shall pay all applicable federal, state and local taxes or surcharges, including sales, use, excise, gross earnings, and gross income taxes. All such taxes shall be separately shown and charged on bills rendered by Company or its billing agent. Sales and use taxes shall be applied to all charges and shall also be applied to all applicable gross earnings, gross revenue and gross income taxes.

2.5.D Payment and Late Payment Charge

2.5.D.1 Payment will be due as specified on the Customer bill. Commencing after that due date, a late charge of up to the highest interest rate allowable by law will be applied to all amounts past due.

2.5.D.2 Collection procedures and the requirement for a deposit are unaffected by the application of a late payment charge. The late payment charge does not apply to unpaid balances associated with disputed amounts. Undisputed amounts on the same bill are subject to the late payment charge if unpaid and carried forward to the next bill.

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INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

2.5 Charges and Payments for Service or Facilities(Cont'd)

2.5.D Payment and Late Payment Charge(Cont'd)

2.5.D.3 Service may be denied or discontinued at the Company's discretion for nonpayment of amounts due the Company past the due date as specified in 2.5.D.1. Restoration of Service will be subject to all applicable installation charges.

2.5.E Returned Check Charge

In cases where the Company issues direct bills to Customers, and payment by check is returned for insufficient funds, or is otherwise not processed for payment, there will be a charge as set forth herein. Such charge will be applicable on each occasion when a check is returned or not processed.

2.5.F Suspension or Termination for Nonpayment

In the event of nonpayment of any bill rendered or any required deposit, the Company may, after written notice, suspend Service to the Customer.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

## 2.5 Charges and Payments for Service or Facilities(Cont'd)

## 2.5.G Credit Allowances/Service Interruptions

- 2.5.G.1 Credit for failure of Service will be allowed only when failure is caused by or occurs in the Company's facilities or equipment owned, provided and billed for by the Company. A credit allowance is not applicable for any period during which Customer cannot utilize the Service, except for such period where the Service is interrupted by the Company for access to its facilities for the purposes of investigating and clearing troubles and/or maintenance.
- 2.5.G.2 Credit allowances for failure of Service or equipment starts when the Customer notifies the Company of the failure and ceases when the operation has been restored and an attempt has been made to notify the Customer by the Company.
- 2.5.G.3 The Customer shall notify the Company of failures of Service or equipment and make reasonable attempts to ascertain that the failure is not caused by Customer Provided Equipment or Customer provided facilities, any act, or omission of the Customer, or in wiring or equipment connected to the Customer's terminal.
- 2.5.G.4 Only those portions of the Service or equipment operation disabled will be credited.
- 2.5.G.5 Any credit provided to the Customer under this Tariff shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.5.H.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

## 2.5 Charges and Payments for Service or Facilities(Cont'd)

## 2.5.H Service Interruption Measurement

- 2.5.H.1 In the event of an interruption of Service that exceeds the minimum requirements set forth in this paragraph, the Company shall make a credit allowance at the Customer's request for ~~pro~~ rate adjustment of all Service charges billed by the Company for Services rendered inoperative by the interruption. The credit allowance will be computed by dividing the duration of the service interruption measured in twenty-four (24) hour days, from the time the interruption is reported to the Company, by a standard thirty (30) day month, and then multiplying the result by the Company's fixed monthly charges for each interrupted Service.
- A period of time less than six (6) hours shall not be credited. In no case shall the credit exceed the total monthly charges. No adjustments will be made for periods of noncontinuous interruptions, and no other liability shall attach to the Company in consideration of such interruption to Service.
- 2.5.H.2 A credit allowance will not be given for interruptions caused by the negligence or willful act of the Customer, or interruptions caused by failure of equipment or service not provided by the Company.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

2.6 Termination or Denial of Service by the Company

2.6.A The Company may, immediately and without notice to the Customer, and without liability of any nature, temporarily deny, terminate, or suspend Service to any Customer:

2.6.A.1 In the event such Customer or its agent: (a) willfully damages the Company equipment, interferes with use of the Company's Service by other Customers of the Company; (b) unreasonably places capacity demands upon the Company's facilities or Service; or (c) violates any statute or provision of law, or any rule or regulation of any state or federal regulatory agency relating to communications; or (d) otherwise fails to comply with the provisions of this Tariff or applicable law; or

2.6.A.2 In the event a Customer becomes insolvent, is the subject of any formal legal proceeding commenced in a court involving a voluntary or involuntary petition or proceeding in bankruptcy, seeks protection or relief from creditors in a formal legal proceeding after a filing for such relief, or executes an assignment for the benefit of creditors; or

2.6.A.3 In the event that the Company determines that any Service is being used fraudulently or illegally, whether by a Customer or its agent.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

2.7 Special Services2.7.A General

For the purpose of this Tariff, Special Services are deemed to be any Service requested by the Customer and provided by the Company for which there is no prescribed rate in this Tariff. Special Services charges will be developed on an individual case basis (ICB) and may be established by contract between the Company and the Customer. Such contract or ICB rates will be filed with the Commission for its approval if required by applicable rules and regulations.

2.7.B When Applicable

Special Services rates apply in the following circumstances:

2.7.B.1 If at the request of the Customer, the Company obtains facilities not normally used by the Company to provide Service to its Customer;

2.7.B.2 If at the request of the Customer, the Company provides technical assistance not normally required to provide Service;

2.7.B.3 Where special signaling, conditioning, equipment, or other features are required to make Customer Provided Equipment compatible with the Company's Service;

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

2.7 Special Services(Cont'd)2.7.B When Applicable(Cont'd)

2.7.B.4 When, at the specific request of the Customer, installation by the Company or its agent and/or routine maintenance is performed outside of the regular business hours.

2.7.B.5 If installation and/or routine maintenance is extended beyond normal business hours at the request of the Customer and these circumstances are not the fault of the Company, Special Service charges may apply. Such circumstances include, but are not limited to, stand-by in excess of one hour, weekend, holiday or night time cut-over, and additional installation testing in excess of the normal testing required to provide Service.

2.7.C Cancellation

If a Customer orders Service requiring special facilities dedicated to the Customer's use and then cancels its order before the Service begins, before completion of any minimum Service periods associated with such special facilities ordered by the Company or before completion of some other period mutually agreed upon by the Customer and the Company, a charge will be made to the Customer for the nonrecoverable portions of expenditures or liabilities incurred expressly on behalf of the Customer by the Company and not fully reimbursed by installation and monthly charges. If, based on such an order, any construction has either begun or been completed, but no such Service provided, the nonrecoverable cost of such construction shall be borne by the Customer.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 2. Rules and Regulations- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

2.8 Special Pricing Arrangements

Customized Service packages and competitive pricing arrangements at negotiated rates may be furnished on a case-by-case basis in response to requests by Customers for proposals or for competitive bids. Special Pricing Arrangements offered under this Tariff will be provided to the Customer pursuant to contract. Unless otherwise specified, the regulations for such arrangements are in addition to the applicable regulations and prices in other sections of the Tariff. Specialized rates or charges will be made available to similarly situated Customers on a non-discriminatory basis.

2.9 Special Construction

All rates and charges quoted in this Tariff provide for the furnishing of a Service when suitable facilities are available or where the construction of the necessary facilities does not involve unusual costs. When the revenue to be derived from the Service does not warrant the Company assuming the unusual costs of providing the necessary construction, the Customer may be required to pay all or a portion of such costs and to contract for the service for a sufficient period to warrant the construction, depending upon the circumstances in each case. The Company's charges for such special construction shall follow the same guidelines for establishing charges for Special Services as described in Section 2.8 of this Tariff.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 2. Rules and Regulations - Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

2.10 Inspection, Testing and Adjustment

2.10.A The Company may, upon reasonable notice, make such tests and inspections as may be necessary to investigate the installation, operation or maintenance of the Customer's or the Company's equipment or connecting facilities. The Company may interrupt Service at any time, without penalty or liability to itself, where necessary to prevent improper use of Service, equipment, facilities, or connections.

2.10.B Upon reasonable notice, the facilities and equipment provided by the Company shall be made available to the Company for such tests and adjustments as may be necessary for its maintenance in a condition satisfactory to the Company. No interruption allowance will be granted for the time during which such tests and adjustments are made, unless such interruption exceeds four (4) hours in length.

2.11. Operator Services

2.11.A Operator services will not be provided by the Company as part of the Service furnished by the Company.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 3. General Classification and Description of the Company's Service- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Services

3.1 Service Points

3.1.A The Company provides originating Service from domestic points in the United States to domestic points identified in this Tariff.

3.2 Measurements3.2.A Time-of-Day Rate Period

Time-of-Day Rate Periods are reflected in the rates found in Section 4, herein.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 3. General Classification and Description of the Company's Service- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Services(Cont'd)

3.2 Measurements(Cont'd)3.2.B Availability of Service

The Service is available at the rates listed in Section 4, through subscription to any of the domestic message telecommunication service offerings available from the Company. Each of these offerings utilize the same rate schedules but have different rates and billing increments for each of the rate schedules.

3.2.C Holiday Rates

3.2.C.1 During the following officially recognized holidays, Evenings Rates will be applicable during all hours, except for hours when a lower rate i.e. Night/Weekend) is applicable.

New Year's Day	Labor Day
Memorial Day	Thanksgiving Day
Independence Day	Christmas Day
Presidents' Day	

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 3. General Classification and Description of the Company's Service- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Services(Cont'd)

3.3 Timing of Calls

3.3.A Unless otherwise indicated in this Tariff, calls are timed by the Company in sixty (60) second increments for the initial minute and then in six (6) second increments for business service (including 800 service) and in sixty (60) second increments for the initial minute and then in thirty (30) second increments for residential service (including 800 service). Calling card service will be billed in sixty (60) second increments. "Ring-busy" and "ring-no-answer" calls will not knowingly be charged to the Customer and if charged in error, will be credited by the Company to the Customer. Timing begins at the "starting event" and ends at the "terminating event," unless otherwise specified. Time between the starting event and the terminating event is the call duration. The minimum call duration for a completed call is sixty (60) seconds, unless otherwise specified.

3.3.B The starting event occurs when the Company's terminal experiences an "Incoming Signaling Protocol Successful," i.e. upon the seizure of an inbound trunk.

3.3.C The terminating event occurs when the Company's terminal receives a signal from the Local Exchange Carrier that either the calling party or the called party has hung up.

3.3.D There shall be no charge for unanswered calls. Upon receiving reasonable and adequate notice of billing from a Customer for any such call, the Company may issue a credit in an amount equal to the charge for the call. Calls which are in progress longer than one minute will be presumed to have been answered.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 3. General Classification and Description of the Company's Service- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Services(Cont'd)

3.3 Timing of Calls(Cont'd)

- 3.3.E Domestic Message Telecommunications Service rates may be quoted in terms of initial and additional minutes. The initial minute is the first minute or any fraction thereof after connection is made. The additional minute is each minute or any fraction thereof after the initial minute.
- 3.3.F The time of day at the calling party rate center determines what Time-of-Day rate period applies.

3.4 Computation of Distance

- 3.4.A Calls may be rated on the basis of airline mileage locations of the caller and the called party, regardless of the call's routing.
- 3.4.B Airline mileage is obtained by using the "V" and "H" coordinates assigned to each point. To determine the airlines distance between any two cities, the airline mileage is determined as follows:
- 3.4.B.1 Obtain the "V" and "H" coordinates for each city.
- 3.4.B.2 Obtain the difference between the "V" coordinates of each of the cities. Obtain the difference between the "H" coordinates.
- 3.4.B.3 Square each difference obtained in step 3.4.B.2, above.
- 3.4.B.4 Add the square of the "V" difference and the "H" difference obtained in step 3.4.B.3, above.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 3. General Classification and Description of the Company's Service- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Services(Cont'd)

3.4 Computation of Distance(Cont'd)

## 3.4.B (Cont'd)

- 3.4.B.5 Divide the number obtained in step 3.4.B.4 by 10. Round to the next higher whole number if any fraction is obtained.
- 3.4.B.6 Obtain the square root of the whole number obtained in step 3.4.B.5 above. Round to the next higher whole number if any fraction is obtained. This is the airline mileage.

3.5 Method of Applying Rates

- 3.5.A Calls that begin in one rate period and terminate in another will be billed at the rate applicable for each respective minute of the call.
- 3.5.B Unless specified otherwise in this Tariff, the duration of each call for billing purposes will be rounded off to the nearest higher increment. See Section 3.3, Timing of Calls.

3.6 Promotional Discounts

The Company may from time to time offer promotional discounts. Such discounts will be for a specified period of time, will not exceed published rates, and will be offered to all qualifying Customers on a non-discriminatory basis, under any rules prescribed by the Commission.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 3. General Classification and Description of the Company's Service- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Services(Cont'd)

3.7 Dialed Domestic Message Telecommunications Services

- 3.7.A Dialed Domestic Message Telecommunications Services are measured use, full time services and are offered on a monthly basis, utilizing intrastate communications facilities. When appropriate access arrangements exist, these switched services are available on a presubscription (Equal Access) basis. Otherwise, the Services require that a Customer access the Company's network via an alternative access code arrangement such as "950XXXX" plus the Customer's security code, a toll-free "1-800" telephone number with the Customer's security code, or via "1-0-1 XXXX" code with Customer security code.
- 3.7.B Depending upon the service option chosen by the Customer, the charges for the use of such domestic intrastate communications facilities may be based upon the time of day, the total minutes of use and/or the distance of each call.
- 3.7.C All Customers shall be charged the rates identified in Section 4.2.A for Residential Customers and in Section 4.2.B for Business Customers.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 3. General Classification and Description of the Company's Service- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Services(Cont'd)

3.8 Calling Card Service

- 3.8.A Calling Card Service permits Customers which have arranged for a Company-issued calling card to make calling card calls throughout the domestic United States through the use of a specific "1800" telephone number provided by the Company. The rates for this service are provided for in Section 4.2.C, herein.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 3. General Classification and Description of the Company's Service- Intrastate Message Telecommunications Services(Cont'd)

3.9 800 Service

3.9.A 800 Service is a one-way inbound service originating on feature group facilities provided by the Company and terminating on a regular telephone line. The Customer is responsible for payment of all charges associated with such terminating calls rather than the calling party.

3.10 RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE.

3.11 RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE.

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 4. Rates for Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service

4.1 Returned Check Charge

Customers whose payment by check is returned for insufficient funds, or is otherwise not processed for payment, will be subject to a returned check charge. Such charge will be applicable on each occasion when a check is returned or not processed.

Per Occasion .....\$15

4.2 Rate Schedules4.2.A Residential Direct Dial Service

4.2.A.1 Day \$0.15 / minute

4.2.A.2 Evening \$0.15 / minute

4.2.A.3 Night & Weekend \$0.15 / minute

4.2.B Business Direct Dial Service

4.2.B.1 Day \$0.12 / minute

4.2.B.2 Evening \$0.15 / minute

4.2.B.3 Night & Weekend \$0.15 / minute

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 4. Rates for Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

4.2 Rate Schedules(Cont'd)4.2.C Calling Card Service4.2.C.1 Availability of Service

The Company issues the Consolidated Communications Networks, Inc. Calling Card, and also allows Customers to utilize the based Calling Cards of other local exchange carriers. Different pricing applies to the utilization of other carriers' line-based Calling Cards.

4.2.C.2 Surcharge for Calling Card Service

Residential	\$0.30 per call
Business	\$0.30 per call

4.2.C.3 Calling Card Rate ScheduleConsolidated Communications Networks, Inc. Calling Card

Calling Card Calls completed with the Consolidated Communications Networks, Inc. Calling Card are available at the rates specified below:

Residential Plan  
Day, Evening, Night, Weekend \$0.25 / minute

Business Plan  
Day, Evening, Night, Weekend \$0.25 / minute

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## INTRASTATE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

## 4. Rates for Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service(Cont'd)

4.2 Rate Schedules(Cont'd)4.2.D 800 Service4.2.D.1 Non-recurring Installation Charge

In addition to the Monthly Recurring Charge and the Usage Charge described in this Section, an Installation Charge per line for each 800 Service terminating line shall be assessed at the rate specified below:

Non-recurring Installation Charge \$10.00

4.2.D.2 Monthly Recurring Charge

In addition to the Usage Charge described in this Section, there shall be assessed a monthly charge per line for each 800 Service terminating line at the rates specified below:

Residential	\$ 2.50 / month
Business	\$ 2.50 / month

4.2.D.3 Usage Charge

800 Service is available at the same usage sensitive (per-minute) rate as specified below:

	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Business</u>
Day	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.15
Evening	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.15
Night & Weekend	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.15

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3 1244 27.2 303

**NEXT**

**DOCUMENT (S)**

**DISREGARD**

**BACKGROUND**

COMING SOON!!

## CONSOLIDATED LONG DISTANCE

*Subsidiary of Consolidated  
Telephone Cooperative*

### Your Hometown Company

☒ Providing you with simple, easy to understand plans from the people that you know and trust.

- Delivers great rates in your local community.
- One bill for your local monthly service, long distance, calling card and RBO service.
- Big KIDS - our great offer. No penalties, no conditions, no hidden costs. We believe long distance service should be easy to use and simple to understand.



**Consolidated  
Long Distance  
One Touch to the World!**

### Features & Services

☒ Full line of features and services to keep you in touch with the world.

#### • Calling Cards

- RBO number printed on the card gives you easy access to Consolidated Long Distance from anywhere in the world.\*

• All calls are billed on your local monthly phone bill.

#### • Simple and Competitive rates.

#### • RBO Numbers

- Did I dial from my phone.

• Allow you to receive and pay for calls from the people who matter most to you. An example of this is children away at school, people who travel, families with younger children who all have collect from mom's, school, town, etc....

- Great for businesses to use to keep your customers and clients in touch with you.

\*SEE BROCHURE FOR DETAILS

**Please contact Consolidated Long Distance if you have any questions.**

**Consolidated Long Distance**

**PO Box 11408**

**Dickinson, ND 58602**

**1-888-228-5282**

**or 701-225-5282**

NORTH DAKOTA 533  
 CONSOLIDATED TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE AND SUBSIDIARIES  
 DICKINSON, NORTH DAKOTA

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
 MARCH 31, 1997 AND 1996

	1997	1996
<b>ASSETS (Note 9)</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,295,380	\$ 243,245
Investments in held to maturity securities (Note 2)	1,580,000	1,330,000
Telecommunications accounts receivable	238,527	208,312
Other accounts receivable	1,003,241	701,802
Interest receivable	40,347	36,385
Materials and supplies	440,863	352,505
Prepayments	227,601	176,509
Total current assets	5,825,959	3,048,758
<b>INVESTMENTS AND NONCURRENT ASSETS:</b>		
Investments in securities available for sale (Note 3)	92,845	101,492
Other investments (Note 4)	1,029,489	738,324
Nonregulated investments:		
Television subsidiary plant - net (Note 5)	764,994	872,740
Telecommunications equipment - net (Note 6)	580,308	610,272
Deferred charges (Note 7)	35,056	4,352,957
Total investments and noncurrent assets	2,502,692	6,675,785
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLANT (Note 8):</b>		
In service	48,083,926	28,981,452
Under construction	1,246,152	692,043
Telephone plant adjustment	2,363,199	
Goodwill - net	2,083,413	
Total investment in plant	53,776,690	29,673,495
Less accumulated depreciation	22,433,321	14,182,349
Net plant	31,343,369	15,491,146
	\$ 39,672,020	\$ 25,215,689

The accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements are an integral part of these statements.



1997

1996

**LIABILITIES AND EQUITIES****CURRENT LIABILITIES:**

Current maturities of long-term debt (Note 9)	\$ 1,553,000	\$ 832,000
Accounts payable	1,004,572	598,439
Accrued interest	169,794	
Advance billings and customer deposits	99,295	39,146
Accrued taxes - other	112,884	61,761
Accrued taxes - income	46,563	15,490
Other current liabilities	105,471	79,755
Total current liabilities	3,091,579	1,626,591

**LONG-TERM DEBT - LESS CURRENT MATURITIES (Note 9)**

27,235,193

15,487,480

**OTHER LIABILITIES:**

Deferred credits (Note 10)	66,755	70,318
Deferred income taxes (Note 14)	68,524	38,567
Accrued sick leave (Note 11)	321,436	279,246
Total other liabilities	456,715	388,131

**EQUITIES:**

Patronage capital (Note 12)	9,160,349	8,406,677
Unrealized gain on securities available for sale (Note 3)	57,564	62,925
Other equities (Note 13)	(329,380)	(756,115)
Total equities	8,888,533	7,713,487

**COMMITMENTS (Note 18)**

22.2%

30%

\$ 39,672,020 \$ 25,215,689



# South Dakota Public Utilities Commission



State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

VIA FAX: 701-227-4745

December 1, 1997

Mr. Michael J. Maus  
Attorney at Law  
Howe, Hardy, Galloway & Maus, P.C.  
P. O. Box 370  
Dickinson, ND 58602-0370

RE: APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY  
Consolidated Communications Networks, Inc.

Dear Mr. Maus:

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.**

Also, we require an original and 10 copies of an Application for a Certificate of Authority be filed with us so we would appreciate it if you would also send us 10 copies of your application.

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

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Delaine Kolbo  
Legal Secretary

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

Transportation/  
Warehouse Division  
Telephone (605)773-5280  
FAX (605)773-3225

Consumer Hotline  
1-800-332-1782

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

Internet  
bill@psc.state.sd.us

Jim Burg  
Chairman  
Pam Nelson  
Vice-Chairman  
Laska Schoenfelder  
Commissioner

William Ballard Jr.  
Executive Director

Edward R. Anderson  
Harlan Best  
Martin C. Bietmann  
Charlie Boller  
Sue Cichon  
Karen E. Cromer  
Marlette Fischbach  
Sharon Fugitt  
Lewis Hammond  
Kaia Hartford  
Lem Healy  
Cameron Hesse  
Dave Jacobson  
Bob Knadle  
Delaine Kolbo  
Jeffrey P. Lorenson  
Terry Norum  
Gregory A. Ruskov  
Tammi Stangor  
Steven M. Weyman  
Rosalynne Aults Went



# South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

State Capitol Building 500 East Capitol Avenue Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070



VIA FAX 701-227-4745

December 1, 1997

Mr. Michael J. Maus  
Attorney at Law  
Howe, Hardy, Galloway & Maus, P.C.  
P. O. Box 370  
Dickinson, ND 58602-0370

RECEIVED

DEC 17 1997

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

Transportation  
Warehouse Division  
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Katie Hartford  
Loni Healy  
Cameron Honeck  
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Gregory A. Ralov  
Tamara Stangor  
Steven M. Wegman  
Rokayne Alva West

RE: APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY  
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We cannot take any action on your application until we receive the applicable fee.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Delaine Kolbo*  
Delaine Kolbo  
Legal Secretary

Enclosed are the 10 copies  
and a check for \$250.00 for  
the filing fee.  
Thank you.

**NEXT**

**DOCUMENT (S)**

**DISREGARD**

**BACKGROUND**

TC97-189

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

These are the telecommunications service filings that the Commission has received for the period of:

11/20/97 through 12/04/97

If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overnight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact Delaine Kolbo within five days of this filing.

DOCKET NUMBER	TITLE/STAFF/SYNOPSIS	DATE FILED	INTERVENTION DEADLINE
<b>REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY</b>			
TC97-187	Application by TotalTel, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a telecommunications company within the state of South Dakota. (Staff: TS/KC) "Applicant is a switch-based reseller which intends to offer 1+ direct dialing, 800 toll free, and travel card (no prepaid calling cards) service through the resale of telephone services provided by facilities-based interexchange carriers."	11/25/97	12/19/97
<b>TC97-189</b>	Application by Consolidated Communications Networks, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a telecommunications company within the state of South Dakota. (Staff: TS/CH) Applicant seeks authority to provide "Dialed Domestic Message Telecommunications Services, and Calling Card Service."	12/03/97	12/19/97
<b>REQUEST FOR ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY STATUS</b>			
TC97-188	Great Plains Communications, Inc. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 C.F.R. 54.201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange area that constitutes its service area in South Dakota. Great Plains Communications, Inc. is the facilities based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges in South Dakota: (605) 822 North Cody, (605) 429 North Crookston, (605) 969 North Kilgore, and (605) 288 North Gordon. Great Plains Communications, Inc., to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications service in the above exchange area. (Staff: HB/KC)	12/01/97	12/12/97

**Important Notice:** The Commission is compiling a list of internet addresses. If you have an internet address please notify the Commission by E-mailing it to Terry Norum at: [terrynor@pucc.state.sd.us](mailto:terrynor@pucc.state.sd.us) Filing the address to the Commission at: 605-773-3809

HOWE, HARDY, GALLOWAY & MAUS, P.C.

TC97-189

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

BRUCE R. HOWE\*  
ALBERT J. HARDY  
GERALD D. GALLOWAY  
MICHAEL J. MAUS\*  
MARY E. NORDSVEN\*  
CARMIL L. HOWE

ALSO ADMITTED IN  
MONTANA\*  
COLORADO AND TEXAS\*

TELEPHONE (701) 227-0101  
FAX (701) 227-4745  
137 FIRST AVENUE WEST  
"BARRISTER BUILDING"

P.O. BOX 370  
DICKINSON, NORTH DAKOTA  
58602-0370

December 4, 1997

RECEIVED

DEC 08 1997

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Ms. Delaine Kolbo  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol Building  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Re: **Application for Certificate of Authority**  
**Consolidated Communications Networks, Inc. (CCNI)**

Dear Ms. Kolbo:

Enclosed are original and ten (10) copies (11 originals) of additional advertising documentation to be filed with the Application of CCNI for Certificate of Authority. Thank you.

Sincerely,

HOWE, HARDY, GALLOWAY & MAUS, P.C.



Michael J. Maus

MJM:lj

Enclosures

cc: CCNI

0144-7233

# It's for you!

Long distance  
service through



## Consolidated Long Distance

Subsidiary of Consolidated Telephone Cooperative

Consolidated Long Distance announces long distance service with no gimmicks, no confusion and no hidden cost. Just one great plan at a great rate!

### Residential Long Distance Rate

**One great rate of 15¢ per minute.**  
Any time, day or night, in the continental U.S.

### Business Long Distance Rate

**One great day rate of 12¢ per minute.**  
15¢ per minute evenings/nights/weekends.

### Calling Card

**Only 25¢ per minute**, with a low surcharge of 30¢ per call. Any time of day or night.

### 800 Service

**Only 20¢ per minute residential and 15¢ per minute business**, with a \$2.50 monthly service fee. Any time of day or night.

Please call if you have any questions.

**1-888-225-5282**

TEAR OFF AND SEND WITH PHONE BILL

- ☐ Yes, I want Consolidated Long Distance to provide my long distance service. (Please read reverse side.)
- ☐ Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ calling card(s) with the following names:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I would like an 800 number, please assign one.

I would like additional information on the following long distance services:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone #(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 79  
DICKINSON, ND  
58601

### Terms of Authorization

1. Your signature on this card authorizes Consolidated Long Distance to notify your local telephone company of your choice of a long distance company.
2. When you sign and return this card, you are choosing Consolidated Long Distance for the telephone numbers entered and for any other numbers billed to it.

Consolidated Long Distance  
PO Box 1408  
Dickinson, ND 58602



BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )	ORDER GRANTING
CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS )	CERTIFICATE OF
NETWORKS, INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF )	AUTHORITY
AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE )	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN )	TC97-189
SOUTH DAKOTA )	

On December 3, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission), in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24.02, received an application for a certificate of authority from Consolidated Communications Networks, Inc. (CCNI).

CCNI proposed reselling long distance services provided by an underlying carrier; it will not own facilities and the only equipment utilized will be that of local telephone companies. A proposed tariff was filed by CCNI. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On December 4, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of December 19, 1997, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled January 8, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered CCNI's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24.02 and 20:10:24.03. The Commission finds that CCNI has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. CCNI has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications services in South Dakota. The Commission approves CCNI's application for a certificate of authority. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that CCNI's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, effective February 3, 1998. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that CCNI shall file informational copies of tariff changes with the Commission as the changes occur.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1998.

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 first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By Kelaine Halbo

Date 1/14/98

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

James A. Burg  
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson  
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Lisba Schöenfelder  
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner

0144422443

# **SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

## ***CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY***

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

Authority was Granted January 8, 1998, effective February 3, 1998  
Docket No. TC97-189

*This is to certify that*

**CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, INC.**

*is authorized to provide telecommunications services in South Dakota.*

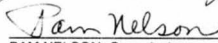
This certificate is issued in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02, and is subject to all of the conditions and limitations contained in the rules and statutes governing its conduct of offering telecommunications services.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1998.

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION:**



  
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

  
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

  
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner