BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY RT COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER	))))	**ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF HEARING** **TC97-199**

On December 23, 1997, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a request from the above captioned telecommunications company requesting designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier.

The Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline to interested individuals and entities on December 23, 1997, with an intervention deadline of December 29, 1997. No Petitions to Intervene were filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-31, including 1-26-18, 1-26-19, 49-31-3, 49-31-7, 49-31-7.1, 49-31-11, and 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1) through (5).

The issues at the hearing shall be as follows: (1) whether the above captioned telecommunications company should be granted designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier, and (2) what service areas shall be established by the Commission.

A hearing shall be held at 1:30 P.M., on Thursday, March 26, 1998, in Room 412, State Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota. It shall be an adversary proceeding conducted pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-26. All parties have the right to be present and to be represented by an attorney. These rights and other due process rights shall be forfeited if not exercised at the hearing. If you or your representative fail to appear at the time and place set for the hearing, the Final Decision will be based solely on the testimony and evidence provided, if any, during the hearing or a Final Decision may be issued by default pursuant to SDCL 1-26-20. After the hearing the Commission will consider all evidence and testimony that was presented at the hearing. The Commission will then enter Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and a Final Decision regarding this matter. As a result of this hearing, the Commission may either grant or deny the request from the above captioned telecommunications company requesting designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier, and the Commission shall establish service areas for an eligible telecommunications carrier. The Commission's decision may be appealed by the parties to the state Circuit Court and the state Supreme Court as provided by law. It is therefore

ORDERED that a hearing shall be held at the time and place specified above on the issues of whether the above captioned telecommunications company should be granted designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier, and what shall be the service area for an eligible telecommunications carrier.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 23rd day of March, 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 facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By: Delaine Kolbo

Date: 3/24/98

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:
Commissioners Burg, Nelson and Schoenfelder

William T. Bullard Jr.

WILLIAM BULLARD, JR.
Executive Director