

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF GST NET, INC.) ORDER GRANTING
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE) CERTIFICATE OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA) AUTHORITY
)
) TC97-033**

On April 2, 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 GST Net, Inc. (GST Net).

GST Net proposes to provide message telecommunnications service, 800 service, calling card services and prepaid calling cards. A proposed tariff was filed by GST Net. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On April 3, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 18, 1997, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled May 13, 1997, meeting, the Commission considered GST Net's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that GST Net not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission.

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 GST Net has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. GST Net 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 GST Net's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that GST Net not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that GST Net's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, effective June 2, 1997, subject to the condition that GST Net not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of May, 1997.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

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.

JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

PAM NELSON, Commissioner

By: _____

Date: _____

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

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