

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
TELCO PARTNERS, INC. FOR A)
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN)
SOUTH DAKOTA)

ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY

TC97-010

On February 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 Telco Partners, Inc. (Telco).

Telco seeks authority to provide MTS, out-WATS, in-WATS and calling card services. A proposed tariff was filed by Telco. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On February 13, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of February 28, 1997, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled March 4, 1997, meeting, the Commission considered Telco's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Telco 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 Telco has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Telco 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 Telco's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Telco 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 Telco's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, effective April 3, 1997, subject to the condition that Telco not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 11th day of March, 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 first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By: *Diane Kalbo*

Date: 3/12/97

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner