

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )  
BELLSOUTH LONG DISTANCE, INC. FOR A )  
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE )  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN )  
SOUTH DAKOTA )**

**ORDER GRANTING  
CERTIFICATE OF  
AUTHORITY**

**TC97-004**

On January 13, 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 BellSouth Long Distance, Inc. (BellSouth).

BellSouth plans to provide telecommunications service from any originating location in South Dakota. The initial service offering will be limited to proprietary card calls made primarily by BellSouth's customer base residing outside South Dakota when they travel into South Dakota for business or pleasure. In the future, BellSouth plans to expand its customer base to include South Dakota residential and business customers, and BellSouth will comply with all regulations required at the time the services are offered. A proposed tariff was filed by BellSouth. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On January 16, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of January 31, 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 BellSouth'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 BellSouth has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. BellSouth 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 BellSouth's application for a certificate of authority. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that BellSouth's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 1997.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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: <u>Delaine Kelbo</u>
Date: <u>5/22/97</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg  
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson  
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder  
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner