

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER GRANTING
QUINTELCO, INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF)	CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)	AUTHORITY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES,)	
INCLUDING LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES, IN)	TC97-104
SOUTH DAKOTA)	

On June 19, 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 Quintelco, Inc. (Quintelco).

Quintelco proposes to offer local dial tone services, Message Telephone Service, Wide Area Telephone Service, WATS-like services, foreign exchange service, private lines, tie lines, access service, cellular service, local switched service and other services and facilities of communications common carriers and other entities.

On June 19, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 7, 1997, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled March 26, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered Quintelco's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority as Quintelco had furnished the Commission with a surety bond, subject to rural safeguards. Commission Staff further recommended a waiver of 20:10:24:02(8) and (12).

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 Quintelco has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Quintelco has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-1, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications services in South Dakota. Further, the Commission finds that there is good cause to waive subparagraphs (8) and (12) of ARSD 20:10:24:02.

The Commission approves Quintelco's application for a certificate of authority, subject to rural safeguards. The certificate of authority for Quintelco shall authorize it to offer local exchange services in those areas in South Dakota where U S WEST Communications, Inc. is the incumbent local exchange carrier. In the future, should Quintelco choose to provide local exchange services statewide, with respect to rural telephone companies, Quintelco will have to come before the Commission in another proceeding before being able to provide local service in that rural service area pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 253(f) which allows the Commission to require a company that seeks to provide service in a rural service area to meet the requirements in 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1) for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier. In addition, the granting of

statewide certification will not affect the exemptions, suspensions, and modifications for rural telephone companies found in 47 U.S.C. § 251(f). It is therefore

ORDERED, that Quintelco's application for a Certificate of Authority to provide telecommunications services, including local exchange services, is granted; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Quintelco shall file informational copies of tariff changes with the Commission as the changes occur; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission shall authorize Quintelco to offer local exchange services in those areas in South Dakota where U S WEST Communications, Inc. is the incumbent local exchange carrier; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission finds good cause to waive subparagraphs (8) and (12) of ARSD 20:10:24:02.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 6th day of April, 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:	<u><i>Helaine Kalbo</i></u>
Date:	<u>4/8/97</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