

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )</b>	<b>ORDER GRANTING</b>
<b>GLD, GROUP LONG DISTANCE, INC. FOR AN )</b>	<b>AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF</b>
<b>AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO )</b>	<b>AUTHORITY</b>
<b>PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS )</b>	
<b>SERVICES, INCLUDING LOCAL EXCHANGE )</b>	<b>TC97-151</b>
<b>SERVICES, IN SOUTH DAKOTA )</b>	

On August 29, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission), in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02, received an application for an amended certificate of authority from GLD, Group Long Distance, Inc. (GLD).

GLD seeks authority to provide local exchange service. GLD does not own or maintain any transmission facilities or switching equipment in the state of South Dakota and proposes to provide services through incumbent local exchange carriers.

On September 4, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 19, 1997, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled November 18, 1997, meeting, the Commission considered GLD's request for an amended certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting an amended certificate of authority, subject to the condition that GLD not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission, and 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 GLD has met the legal requirements established for the granting of an amended certificate of authority. GLD 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 GLD's application for an amended certificate of authority, subject to the condition that GLD not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission, and subject to rural safeguards. The amended certificate of authority for GLD 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 GLD choose to provide local exchange services statewide, with respect to rural telephone companies, GLD 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 GLD's application for an Amended Certificate of Authority to provide telecommunications services, including local exchange services, is granted, subject to the condition that GLD not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission; and it is

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

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission shall authorize GLD to offer its 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; and it is

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 1st day of December, 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 facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.	
By:	<u>    Allaine Kalbo    </u>
Date:	<u>    12/3/97    </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