

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
UNITED SERVICES TELEPHONE, LLC FOR A)
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN)
SOUTH DAKOTA)

ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY

TC97-158

On September 16, 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 United Services Telephone, LLC (UST).

UST proposes to offer outbound message telecommunications service and inbound toll free (800/888) service through switched and dedicated access facilities provided by its underlying carriers. A proposed tariff was filed by UST. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On September 18, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of October 3, 1997, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled July 23, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered UST'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 UST has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. UST 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 UST's application for a certificate of authority upon it obtaining a certificate of authority from the South Dakota Secretary of State. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that UST's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, upon it filing with the Commission a certificate of authority from the South Dakota Secretary of State. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 5th day of August, 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 first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u><i>Aldine Kabis</i></u>
Date: <u>8/7/98</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