

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY)	ORDER GRANTING MOTION
STERLING INTERNATIONAL FUNDING, INC.)	FOR APPLICATION OF
D/B/A RECONEX FOR A CERTIFICATE OF)	REHEARING FOR A
AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)	CERTIFICATE OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN)	AUTHORITY
SOUTH DAKOTA)	TC97-160

On September 24, 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 Sterling International Funding, Inc. d/b/a Reconex (Reconex).

Reconex proposed to offer service in the areas and exchanges currently being served by U S WEST. Reconex is an alternative telephone company primarily furnishing prepaid local dial tone service to individuals who have had their telephone disconnected, have voluntarily left their local exchange provider, or for money management reasons, prefer to address their local calling needs in a prepaid fashion at a set fee. A proposed tariff was filed by Reconex. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On September 25, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of October 10, 1997, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On October 14, 1997, Commission Staff sent Reconex a request for additional data. Staff never received the requested information. Staff sent a second letter on April 27, 1998, which was returned on April 28, 1998. A copy of the Commission's May 28, 1998, agenda was electronically transmitted to Reconex on May 21, 1998. At its regularly scheduled May 28, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered Reconex's request for a certificate of authority. Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:24:03, Commission Staff recommended denying the certificate of authority and closing the docket as Staff had not been able to establish contact with Reconex since the initial filing and had no way of contacting the company. The Commission found that Reconex had not met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Reconex had not, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications services in South Dakota. The Commission voted to deny Reconex's application for a certificate of authority. On July 1, 1998, Reconex filed a Motion for Application of Rehearing for 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. On July 23, 1998, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission voted to grant the Motion for Application of Rehearing for a Certificate of Authority. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Reconex's Motion for Application of Rehearing for a Certificate of Authority is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 14th 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 facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u><i>Helaine Kelbo</i></u>
Date: <u>8/14/98</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