

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS)
NETWORKS, INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF)
AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN)
SOUTH DAKOTA)

ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY

TC97-189

On December 3, 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 Consolidated Communications Networks, Inc. (CCNI).

CCNI proposed reselling long distance services provided by an underlying carrier; it will not own facilities and the only equipment utilized will be that of local telephone companies. A proposed tariff was filed by CCNI. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On December 4, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of December 19, 1997, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled January 8, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered CCNI'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 CCNI has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. CCNI 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 CCNI's application for a certificate of authority. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that CCNI's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, effective February 3, 1998. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 13th day of January, 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>Helene Kolbo</i></u>
Date: <u>1/14/98</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