

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
AMERICATEL CORPORATION FOR A)
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN)
SOUTH DAKOTA)

**ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY**

TC98-013

On January 28, 1998, 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 Americatel Corporation (Americatel).

Americatel proposes to offer direct dialed, long distance, casual dial-around 10XXX service on a non-presubscribed basis, interstate and intrastate. A proposed tariff was filed by Americatel. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On January 29, 1998, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of February 13, 1998, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled February 24, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered Americatel's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Americatel not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission.

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 Americatel has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Americatel 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 Americatel's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Americatel not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that Americatel's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, effective March 28, 1998, subject to the condition that Americatel not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 27th day of February, 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>Helaine Kelbo</i></u>
Date: <u>3/2/98</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