

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

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

ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY

TC98-057

On February 23, 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 SmartStop, Inc. (SmartStop).

Applicant seeks authority to serve 800 WATS and 1+ prepaid telecard services COCOT (COPT) and IPP to the general public. Such authority would include twenty-four hour origination and termination intrastate interLATA and intraLATA calls for customers, and to operate as a Travel and Prepaid Card reseller and Independent Payphone Provider (IPP). SmartStop is not applying for authorization to provide Operator services. A proposed tariff was filed by SmartStop.

On February 26, 1998, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of March 13, 1998, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled May 28, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered SmartStop'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 SmartStop has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. SmartStop 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 SmartStop's application for a certificate of authority. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that SmartStop's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 4th day of June, 1998.

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| 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> Melaine Kalbo </u> |
| Date: <u> 6/8/98 </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