

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
NORTHERN VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS,)
L.L.C. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY)
TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS)
SERVICES, INCLUDING LOCAL EXCHANGE)
SERVICES, IN SOUTH DAKOTA)

ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY

TC98-063

On March 18, 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 Northern Valley Communications, L.L.C. (NVC).

NVC seeks to provide telecommunications services including local exchange services, intraLATA services and interLATA services through a combination of reseller and facilities-based provisioning. NVC will enter into agreements with local exchange companies for the resale of telecommunications services. A proposed tariff was filed by NVC. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On March 19, 1998, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 3, 1998, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled May 12, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered NVC's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting NVC a certificate of authority, provided NVC furnished the Commission with a surety bond. NVC proposed filing an Irrevocable Letter of Credit rather than the bond.

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 NVC has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. NVC 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 NVC's application for a certificate of authority, provided that NVC furnishes the Commission with a bond. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that NVC's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, provided that NVC furnishes the Commission with a bond. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 26th day of May, 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>Delani Kalbs</i></u>
Date: <u>5/26/98</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