

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

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| IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY DAKOTA) | ORDER FOR AND NOTICE |
| TELECOM, INC. FOR DESIGNATION AS AN) | OF HEARING |
| ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER) | TC98-111 |

On June 4, 1998, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a request from Dakota Telecom, Inc. (DTI) requesting designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier for the Centerville and Viborg exchanges in South Dakota.

The Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline to interested individuals and entities on June 4, 1998, with an intervention deadline of June 19, 1998. Petitions to Intervene were received from Fort Randall Telephone Company (Fort Randall) and South Dakota Independent Telephone Coalition, Inc. (SDITC). Fort Randall and SDITC were granted intervention by Order dated August 5, 1998.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-31, including 1-26-18, 1-26-19, 49-31-3, 49-31-7, 49-31-7.1, 49-31-11, and 49-31-78.

The procedural schedule for testimony and a hearing on this matter shall be as follows:

| DATE | PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE |
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| August 20, 1998 | Petitioner's Prefiled Testimony Due |
| September 4, 1998 | Intervenors' Prefiled Testimony Due |
| September 14, 1998 | Hearing commencing at 1:30 p.m. in Room 412 of the State Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota |

The issue at the hearing shall be as follows: (1) whether DTI should be granted designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier for the Centerville and Viborg exchanges.

The hearing shall be an adversary proceeding conducted pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-26. All parties have the right to be present and to be represented by an attorney. These rights and other due process rights shall be forfeited if not exercised at the hearing. If you or your representative fail to appear at the time and place set for the hearing, the Final Decision will be based solely on the testimony and evidence provided, if any, during the hearing or a Final Decision may be issued by default pursuant to SDCL

1-26-20. After the hearing the Commission will consider all evidence and testimony that was presented at the hearing. The Commission will then enter Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and a Final Decision regarding this matter. As a result of this hearing, the Commission may either grant or deny the request from DTI requesting designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier. The Commission's decision may be appealed by the parties to the state Circuit Court and the state Supreme Court as provided by law. It is therefore

ORDERED that a hearing shall be held at the time and place specified above on the issue of whether DTI should be granted designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 7 day of August, 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 facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon. | |
| By: | <u>Helaine Kelso</u> |
| Date: | <u>8/7/98</u> |
| (OFFICIAL SEAL) | |

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:
Commissioners Burg, Nelson and
Schoenfelder


WILLIAM BULLARD, JR.
Executive Director