

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

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

ORDER GRANTING  
CERTIFICATE OF  
AUTHORITY  
  
TC98-139

On July 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 Z-Tel Communications, Inc. (Z-Tel).

Z-Tel proposes to offer long distance voice telecommunications services over resold transmission facilities to business and residential customers throughout the state of South Dakota. The Company provides outbound service and access to directory assistance. Intrastate service is offered as an add-on to interstate service. A proposed tariff was filed by Z-Tel. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On July 30, 1998, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of August 14, 1998, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled September 10, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered Z-Tel'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 SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02 and 20:10:24:03. The Commission finds that Z-Tel has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Z-Tel 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 Z-Tel's application for a certificate of authority. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that Z-Tel's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, effective September 28, 1998. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 1998.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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>Alaine Kalbo</u>
Date: <u>9/21/98</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