BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF COLUMBIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. D.B.A AXESSA FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA	)	**ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY** **TC99-052**

On April 30, 1999, 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 Columbia Telecommunications, Inc. d.b.a. aXessa (aXessa).

aXessa intends to offer interexchange services, including both inbound and outbound intraLATA toll services. A proposed tariff was filed by aXessa. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On May 6, 1999, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of May 21, 1999, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its July 13, 1999, meeting, the Commission considered aXessa's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that aXessa 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 aXessa has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. aXessa 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 aXessa's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that aXessa 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 aXessa's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, subject to the condition that aXessa not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 16th day of July, 1999.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:
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:_____ Date:_____ (OFFICIAL SEAL)	_____ JAMES A. BURG, Chairman _____ PAM NELSON, Commissioner _____ LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner