

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF USTEL, INC.'S FAILURE</b>	)	<b>FINDINGS OF FACT,</b>
<b>TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS</b>	)	<b>CONCLUSIONS OF LAW</b>
<b>RECEIPTS TAX</b>	)	<b>AND FINAL ORDER; NOTICE</b>
	)	<b>OF ENTRY OF FINAL</b>
	)	<b>ORDER</b>
	)	<b>TC99-153</b>

On December 30, 1999, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued an Order for and Notice of Show Cause Hearing against UStel, Inc. (UStel) for failure to submit an annual report and pay the gross receipts tax. The hearing was held as scheduled on February 3, 2000, in the Commission's Conference Room, State Capitol Building, Pierre, South Dakota. The reason for the hearing was to give UStel an opportunity to show cause why the Commission should not revoke its Certificate of Authority, or other specified actions, for failure to pay the gross receipts tax as required by SDCL 49-1A-3. Commissioners Burg, Nelson, and Schoenfelder were present. Also present were Camron Hoseck, Commission Staff Attorney, and Sue Cichos, Business Manager for the Commission. No representative of UStel appeared at the hearing. After hearing the testimony, the Commission voted unanimously to revoke UStel's Certificate of Authority for failure to pay the gross receipts tax.

The Commission, having heard the testimony presented at the hearing, makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. UStel is a telecommunications company holding a Certificate of Authority, issued by this Commission, to provide telecommunications services in South Dakota.
2. Sue Cichos, Business Manager for the Commission, testified that UStel never paid the gross receipts tax due June 1, 1999, as required by SDCL 49-1A-3.
3. A copy of the Order for and Notice of Show Cause Hearing was sent by certified mail to UStel.
4. No representative of UStel appeared at the hearing to show cause why the Commission should not revoke its Certificate of Authority.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A, 49-31, specifically 49-1A-3, 49-1A-4, 49-1A-5, 49-1A-6, and 49-31-3.
2. Pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-3, the Commission assesses a tax of .0015 or \$250, whichever is greater, on the annual intrastate gross receipts received by a telecommunications company from the company's customers within the state of South Dakota. Pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-5, the tax is due on June first of each year.
3. UStel has failed to pay the gross receipts tax.

4. The Commission has the authority, under SDCL 49-31-3, to suspend or revoke a Certificate of Authority granted to a company for a willful violation of the laws of this state. Based on the failure of UStel to pay the gross receipts tax in violation of SDCL 49-1A-5, the Commission revokes UStel's Certificate of Authority.

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is therefore

ORDERED, that the Certificate of Authority granted to UStel by this Commission is hereby revoked and shall be returned to the Commission within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order.

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that this Order was duly entered on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2000. Pursuant to SDCL 1-26-32, this Order will take effect 10 days after the date of receipt or failure to accept delivery of the decision by the parties.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2000.

<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 facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid, thereon.	
By:	<u>Alvin Kalbs</u>
Date:	<u>2/16/00</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