

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER GRANTING
ADVANCED TELCOM, INC. FOR A)	CERTIFICATE OF
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)	AUTHORITY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES,)	
INCLUDING LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES, IN)	TC00-075
SOUTH DAKOTA)	

On April 25, 2000, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application for a certificate of authority from Advanced TelCom Group, Inc. (Advanced TelCom).

Advanced TelCom proposes to offer resold and facilities-based local exchange and interexchange service. A proposed tariff was filed by Advanced TelCom.

On April 27, 2000, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of May 12, 2000, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled September 13, 2000, meeting, the Commission considered Advanced TelCom's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to rural safeguards, and subject to the condition that Advanced TelCom not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. On August 1, 2000, Advanced TelCom Group, Inc. changed its name to Advanced TelCom, Inc.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3 and 49-31-69 and ARSD 20:10:24:02, 20:10:24:03 and 20:10:32:03. The Commission finds that Advanced TelCom has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Advanced TelCom has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and 49-31-71, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications services in South Dakota.

The Commission approves Advanced TelCom's application for a certificate of authority, subject to rural safeguards, and subject to the condition that Advanced TelCom not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. The certificate of authority for Advanced TelCom shall authorize it to offer local exchange services in South Dakota, except in those areas served by a rural telephone company. In the future, should Advanced TelCom choose to provide local exchange services statewide, with respect to rural telephone companies, Advanced TelCom will have to come before the Commission in another proceeding before being able to provide local service in that rural service area pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 253(f) which allows the Commission to require a company that seeks to provide service in a rural

service area to meet the requirements in 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1) for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier. In addition, the granting of statewide certification will not affect the exemptions, suspensions, and modifications for rural telephone companies found in 47 U.S.C. § 251(f). It is therefore

ORDERED, that Advanced TelCom's application for a certificate of authority to provide telecommunications services, including local exchange services, is granted, subject to the condition that Advanced TelCom not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Advanced TelCom shall file informational copies of tariff changes with the Commission as the changes occur; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission shall authorize Advanced TelCom to offer its local exchange services in South Dakota, except in those areas served by a rural telephone company.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 19th day of September, 2000.

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><i>Debra Kellars</i></u>
Date:	<u>9/20/00</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