

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

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

ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY

TC00-118

On August 3, 2000, 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 Uni-Tel Communications Group, Inc. (Uni-Tel).

Uni-Tel proposes to offer outbound and inbound telecommunication services, directory assistance services and calling card services. A proposed tariff was filed by Uni-Tel. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On August 10, 2000, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of August 25, 2000, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its October 3, 2000, meeting, the Commission considered Uni-Tel's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Uni-Tel 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 SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02 and 20:10:24:03. The Commission finds that Uni-Tel has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Uni-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 Uni-Tel's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Uni-Tel 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 Uni-Tel's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, subject to the condition that Uni-Tel not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 6th day of October, 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 first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.	
By:	<u>Delaine Kalbo</u>
Date:	<u>10/10/00</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Vice Chairman

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner