

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
BELL ATLANTIC COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO)
PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS)
SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA)**

**ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY

TC99-110**

On November 29, 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 Bell Atlantic Communications, Inc. (Bell Atlantic).

Bell Atlantic proposes to offer intrastate interexchange telecommunications services, including outbound intrastate toll service (presubscribed), operator services and travel card services. A proposed tariff was filed by Bell Atlantic. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On December 2, 1999, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of December 17, 1999, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its March 14, 2000, meeting, the Commission considered Bell Atlantic's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to a continuous \$25,000 surety bond.

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 Bell Atlantic has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Bell Atlantic 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 Bell Atlantic's application for a certificate of authority, subject to a continuous \$25,000 surety bond. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that Bell Atlantic's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, subject to a continuous \$25,000 surety bond. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 20th day of March, 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: _____
Date: _____
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

PAM NELSON, Commissioner

LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner