

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER GRANTING
TELECENTS COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR A)	CERTIFICATE OF
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)	AUTHORITY
LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES IN SOUTH)	
DAKOTA)	TC01-096

On July 26, 2001, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application for a certificate of authority from TeleCents Communications, Inc. (TeleCents).

TeleCents proposes to provide resold and facilities-based local exchange services in South Dakota. TeleCents intends to provide local service in areas served by LECs that are not eligible for a small or rural carrier exemption pursuant to section 251(f)(1) of the Federal Act. A proposed tariff was filed by TeleCents.

On August 2, 2001, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of August 17, 2001, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled September 18, 2001, meeting, the Commission considered TeleCents' request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to rural safeguards, and subject to the condition that TeleCents not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. Commission Staff further recommended a waiver of ARSD 20:10:32:03(11)(a).

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-69 and ARSD 20:10:32:03. The Commission finds that TeleCents has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. TeleCents has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-71, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications services in South Dakota. Further, the Commission finds that there is good cause to waive subparagraph (11)(a) of ARSD 20:10:32:03.

The Commission approves TeleCents' application for a certificate of authority, subject to rural safeguards, and subject to the condition that TeleCents not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. The certificate of authority for TeleCents 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 TeleCents choose to provide local exchange services statewide, with respect to rural telephone companies, TeleCents 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 TeleCents' application for a certificate of authority to provide local exchange services is granted, effective September 25, 2001, subject to the condition that TeleCents not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission; and it is

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

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission shall authorize TeleCents to offer its local exchange services in South Dakota, except in those areas served by a rural telephone company; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission finds good cause to waive subparagraph (11)(a) of ARSD 20:10:32:03.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 27th day of September, 2001.

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>Alaine Kelso</u>
Date:	<u>9/28/01</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner