

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )</b>	<b>ORDER GRANTING</b>
<b>CHOICE TELCO, LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE )</b>	<b>CERTIFICATE OF</b>
<b>OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE )</b>	<b>AUTHORITY</b>
<b>INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS )</b>	
<b>SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA )</b>	<b>TC02-101</b>

On August 12, 2002, 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 Choice Telco, LLC (Choice Telco, LLC).

Choice Telco, LLC proposes to offer interexchange service, 800 service and calling card service to both residential and business customers throughout South Dakota. A proposed tariff was filed by Choice Telco, LLC. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On August 15, 2002, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of August 30, 2002, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its October 17, 2002, meeting, the Commission considered Choice Telco, LLC's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Choice Telco, LLC not offer a prepaid calling card or require or accept 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 Choice Telco, LLC has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Choice Telco, LLC 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 Choice Telco, LLC's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Choice Telco, LLC not offer a prepaid calling card or require or accept deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

**ORDERED**, that Choice Telco, LLC's application for a certificate of authority to provide interexchange telecommunications services is hereby granted, subject to the condition that Choice Telco, LLC not offer a prepaid calling card or require or accept deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that Choice Telco, LLC shall file informational copies of tariff changes with the Commission as the changes occur.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2002.

**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: *Alaine Kalbo*

Date: 10/31/02

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

*James A. Burg*  
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

*Pam Nelson*  
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

*Robert K. Sahr*  
ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner