

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT)
APPLICATION OF ROBERTS COUNTY)
TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION)
AND RC COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR AN)
AMENDMENT TO THE CERTIFICATE OF)
AUTHORITY OF ROBERTS COUNTY)
TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION)
AND WAIVER)**

**ORDER GRANTING
AMENDED CERTIFICATES
OF AUTHORITY AND
GRANTING WAIVERS**

TC14-083

On October 20, 2014, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a joint application for approval of amended certificates of authority seeking: 1) an amendment to the certificate of authority of Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association (Roberts County) to permit it to offer local exchange service in the RC Communications exchanges; and 2) an amendment to the certificate of authority of RC Communications to permit Roberts County to operate as a competitive local exchange carrier in the areas presently served by RC Communications d/b/a RC Services. These amendments are in connection with the prospective merger of RC Communications into Roberts County on December 31, 2014, at 11:59 PM. The application also requests waiver of the requirements under ARSD 20:10:32:03: (6), (7), (8)(c), (10), (13), (14), (15), (18), (19), (20), and (22).

On October 23, 2014, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of November 7, 2014, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed.

On November 25, 2014, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the request for amended certificates of authority. 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 20:10:32:03. The Commission finds that the Applicants have met the legal requirements established for the granting of amended certificates of authority. Roberts County has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and 49-31-71, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications services in the requested areas. Further, the Commission finds that pursuant to SDCL 49-31-69, the amended certificates of authority are in the public interest and shall be granted. The Commission also granted the waivers. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that the Applicants requested waivers of ARSD 20:10:32:03: (6), (7), (8)(c), (10), (13), (14), (15), (18), (19), (20) and (22) are granted; and it is further

ORDERED, that Roberts County's request for an amended certificate of authority shall be granted; and it is further

ORDERED, that RC Communications' request for an amended certificate of authority and its transfer to Roberts County shall be granted; and it is further

ORDERED, that this Order is effective upon completion of the mergers.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 9th day of December, 2014.

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, electronically.

By: Joy Lashley

Date: 12-8-14

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner