

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )  
PREMIER COMMUNICATIONS, INC., DBA )  
PREMIER COMMUNICATIONS FOR A )  
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE )  
INTEREXCHANGE LONG DISTANCE SERVICES )  
IN SOUTH DAKOTA )**

**ORDER GRANTING  
CERTIFICATE OF  
AUTHORITY**

**TC16-041**

On July 5, 2016, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from Premier Communications, Inc., dba Premier Communications (Premier) for a Certificate of Authority to provide interexchange long distance services in South Dakota. Specifically, Premier proposes to offer resold interexchange services to the customers of their affiliated incumbent local exchange carrier.

On July 7, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 22, 2016, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On July 20, 2016, Premier responded to Commission staff's data requests.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of August 2, 2016, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3, as well as ARSD 20:10:24:02. Commission staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Premier not offer any prepaid services, including prepaid calling cards, and not accept any deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. The Commission finds that Premier has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Premier has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial, and managerial capabilities to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications services in South Dakota. The Commission voted unanimously to grant Premier a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Premier not offer any prepaid services, including prepaid calling cards, and not accept or require any deposits or advance payments, for retail purposes, without prior approval of the Commission. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Premier's application for a certificate of authority to provide interexchange services is granted, subject to the condition that Premier not offer any prepaid services, including prepaid calling cards, and not accept or require any deposits or advance payments, for retail purposes, without prior approval of the Commission. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this order constitutes Premier's Certificate of Authority as described above.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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 or by mail.
By: <u>Karen E. Cromer</u>
Date: <u>8/11/16</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner