

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
OF CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS )  
ENTERPRISE SERVICES, INC. FOR A )  
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO )  
PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE AND )  
INTEREXCHANGE LONG DISTANCE )  
SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA AND THE )  
TRANSFER OF CRYSTAL )  
COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND ENVENTIS )  
TELECOM, INC.'S CERTIFICATES OF )  
AUTHORITY TO CONSOLIDATED )  
COMMUNICATIONS ENTERPRISE )  
SERVICES, INC. )

**ORDER GRANTING  
CERTIFICATE OF  
AUTHORITY**

**TC16-067**

On December 8, 2016, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. (CCES) requesting a Certificate of Authority to provide local exchange and interexchange long distance services in South Dakota. This application comes as a part of a series of intra-company transactions that will simplify the corporate structure of CCES' ultimate parent company. Crystal Communications, Inc. (Crystal) and Enventis Telecom, Inc. (Enventis) will be consolidated into CCES with CCES being the surviving member.

On December 15, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of December 30, 2016, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On January 6, 2017, CCES responded to Commission staff's data requests.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on January 17, 2017, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended the certificates of authority from Enventis to CCES be transferred subject to the conditions that CCES not offer any prepaid services including prepaid calling cards and not accept or require any deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission, and subject to rural safeguards.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3, 49-31-69 through 49-31-75, ARSD 20:10:24:02, 20:10:24:03, 20:10:24:04.01, 20:10:32:03, 20:10:32:06, and 20:10:32:08.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve CCES' application for a certificate of authority subject to the conditions that CCES not offer any prepaid services including prepaid calling cards and not accept or require any deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission, and subject to rural safeguards. The Commission finds that CCES has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. CCES has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and 49-31-71, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial, and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications

services in South Dakota. The certificate of authority for CCES shall authorize it to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications service in South Dakota. The certificate of authority for CCES shall also authorize it to provide local exchange service in South Dakota, except in those areas served by a rural telephone company. In the future, should CCES choose to provide local exchange services in areas served by a rural telephone company, CCES 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 CCES' application for a certificate of authority to provide interexchange services in South Dakota is granted. It is further

ORDERED, that CCES' request for a certificate of authority to provide local exchange services is granted, subject to the conditions that CCES not offer any prepaid services including prepaid calling cards and not accept or require any deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is further

ORDERED, that this certificate of authority authorizes CCES to offer its local exchange services in South Dakota, except in those areas served by a rural telephone company. It is further

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 20th day of January, 2017.

<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>Adam DeHueck</u>
Date:	<u>1/20/17</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner