



Bob Sahr, Chair  
Dustin Johnson, Vice-Chair  
Gary Hanson, Commissioner

## SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

Capitol Office  
(605) 773-3201  
(605) 773-3809 fax

Transportation/Warehouse  
(605) 773-5280  
(605) 773-3225 fax

Consumer Hotline  
1-800-332-1782

November 1, 2006

Mr. Joseph R. Morris  
Chief Operating Officer  
First Communications, LLC  
3340 West Market Street  
Akron, OH 44333

RE: CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY - DOCKET TC06-147

Dear Mr. Morris:

Please find enclosed an Order Granting Certificate of Authority and Certificate of Authority, effective as a South Dakota telecommunications company. This Order shows that your company has been approved by the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications services in the state of South Dakota. Each company certified by the Commission is required to demonstrate sufficient technical, financial, and managerial capability to offer telecommunications services in South Dakota. *Please send us one copy of your company's final tariff, including the effective date which is the date of the Order Granting Certificate of Authority.*

Also enclosed for your information is a copy of SDCL 49-31-89 through 49-31-97 relating to slamming, which became effective July 1, 1999.

Administrative Rule 20:10:24:04 requires that each company providing interexchange services submit the following information by June 1 of each year from the preceding calendar year:

A report identifying the exchanges, routes, or other geographic areas of this state where it is providing or expects to provide services. The report shall include the number and type of customers being served.

Pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-1A, on April 1 of each year, each company certified is required to file with the Commission, on forms provided by the Commission, the amount of its gross receipts derived from customers within South Dakota during the preceding calendar year. SDCL 49-1A-3 levies the annual intrastate Gross Receipts Tax. This tax of .0015 or \$250.00, whichever is greater, is due and payable on July 15 of each year.

It is also very important for each company to keep the Commission updated on information relating to the company's address, phone and fax numbers, internet address, and contact people such as officers, CEOs, managers and customer service representatives. A Certificate of Authority may not be sold, assigned, leased, or transferred without Commission approval.

All telecommunications companies should be familiar with the Administrative Rules applicable to the regulation of telecommunications services in South Dakota. If you do not have a copy of these Rules, they can be accessed at the Commission's home page at <http://www.state.sd.us/puc> or you may obtain a copy of the Rules by contacting the Commission. You may use the enclosed document entitled "Stay Informed" to subscribe to Agendas and Minutes of the Commission meetings, Weekly Filing Reports, Rules Information and News Releases. You may also receive the Agendas, Minutes and Weekly Filing Reports by fax.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Delaine Kolbo at (605) 773-3705.

Sincerely,

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PATRICIA VAN GERPEN  
Executive Director

Enc.

cc: Ms. Katherine E. Barker Marshall  
Enc.

# SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

## *CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY*

To Conduct Business As A Telecommunications Company  
Within The State of South Dakota

Authority was Granted as of the date of the  
Order Granting Certificate of Authority  
Docket No. TC06-147

*This is to certify that*

### **FIRST COMMUNICATIONS, LLC**

is authorized to provide interexchange telecommunications services in South Dakota, subject to the condition that it 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.

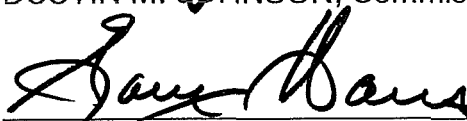
This certificate is issued in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02, and is subject to all of the conditions and limitations contained in the rules and statutes governing its conduct of offering telecommunications services.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2006.

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION:**

  
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

  
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner

  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

