

**Telecommunications Orders - Issued 1996**

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

<p>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF AT&amp;T )  COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MIDWEST, INC. FOR AN )  AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE )  LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE )</p>	<p>ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF )  PREHEARING CONFERENCE )    TC96-038 )  )</p>
<p>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DAKOTA )  TELECOM, INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF )  AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS )  SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA )</p>	<p>TC96-050 )  )</p>
<p>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF MCLEOD )  TELEMANAGEMENT, INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF )  AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS )  SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA )</p>	<p>TC96-054 )  )</p>
<p>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )  FIRSTEL, INC. FOR AN AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF )  AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE )  IN SOUTH DAKOTA )</p>	<p>TC96-083 )  )</p>
<p>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DAKOTA )  TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC. FOR A )  CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE )  TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA )</p>	<p>TC95-087 )  )</p>

On February 29, 1996, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc. (AT&T) to amend its Certificate of Authority to provide local exchange service (Docket TC96-038). AT&T intends to offer basic residential exchange service, residential custom calling and CLASS features, basic business exchange services, business custom calling and CLASS features, and business and residence ancillary service. Intervention in this docket has been granted to U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST), the South Dakota Independent Telephone Coalition, Inc. (SDITC), Dakota Cooperative Telecommunications, Inc. (DCT), TCI Communications, Inc. (TCI), and MCI Telecommunications Corporations (MCI).

On March 15, 1996, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Petition from Dakota Telecom, Inc. (DTI) seeking a Certificate of Authority to operate as a telecommunications company within the State of South Dakota, specifically including, but not limited to, local exchange services, interexchange carrier access, and other telecommunications services (Docket TC96-050). DTI stated that initially it "will provide telecommunications services to the Tea, South Dakota area. Future expansion plans include other USWC areas in and near Sioux Falls." Intervention in this docket has been granted to U S WEST, SDITC, and MCI.

On March 21, 1996, the Commission received an application from McLeod Telemanagement, Inc. (McLeod) for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a telecommunications company within the state of

South Dakota, specifically including but not limited to, local exchange services (Docket TC96-54). McLeod intends to offer local, long-distance interexchange, MTS, WATS, virtual private network services, and private line telecommunications services through resale purchased from other vendors in South Dakota. McLeod desires to resell Centrex Plus services to customers in South Dakota. Intervention in this docket has been granted to U S WEST, SDITC, and MCI.

On April 30, 1996, the Commission received from Dakota Telecommunications Systems, Inc. (DTS) an amendment to DTS's application for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a telecommunications company within the State of South Dakota (Docket TC95-087). On August 30, 1995, DTS filed its original application to offer services based upon the anticipated purchase of assets by DTS from U S WEST in the exchanges of Centerville, Viborg, Hudson, Gregory, Clearfield and Witten. It was further anticipated that the parent of DTS, Dakota Cooperative Telecommunications, would purchase the assets from U S WEST to provide telecommunications services to the Lesterville and Tabor exchanges. DTS amended its application to "provide telecommunications services for Centerville, Viborg, Lesterville, Tabor, Vermillion and Yankton. DTS does not contemplate providing services in nonUSWC areas." Ft. Randall Telephone Company, SDITC, and U S WEST have filed petitions to intervene in this docket.

On May 16, 1996, the Commission received an application from FIRSTEL, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to provide local exchange service in South Dakota (Docket TC96-083). FIRSTEL intends to provide local exchange service throughout the state. The deadline for intervention is May 31, 1996.

The Commission shall hold a prehearing conference on the above-listed dockets on Tuesday, May 28, 1996, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 412, of the State Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota. The purpose of the prehearing conference will be to hear arguments concerning the issues presented by the applications to provide local exchange service. Some of the issues to be addressed at the prehearing are as follows:

1. What shall be the scope of the hearing? Specifically, the parties should be prepared to respond to SDITC's comments filed in TC96-038 concerning rural exchange areas.
2. Should all of the dockets listed above be consolidated with respect to common issues? If so, what are the common issues?
3. What shall be the procedural schedule?

The parties may present additional issues to be considered by the Commission at this prehearing conference. It is therefore

ORDERED, that a prehearing conference shall be held concerning the above-listed dockets on Tuesday, May 28, 1996, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 412 of the State Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota. Parties may appear in person or by teleconference. Please call the Commission for the teleconference number.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 22nd day of May, 1996.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby  
certifies that this document has

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Commissioners Stofferahn, Burg, Schoenfelder

WILLIAM BULLARD, JR.

been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

Executive Director

By: Delaine Kolbo  
Date: May 22, 1996

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