

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
MERIDIAN TELECOM CORPORATION FOR A)
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN)
SOUTH DAKOTA)

ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY

TC97-009

On January 28, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission), in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02, received an application for a certificate of authority from Meridian Telecom Corporation (Meridian).

Meridian seeks authority to offer inbound, outbound, directory assistance, calling card, and prepaid calling card services to presubscribed business customers and to presubscribed residential customers. A proposed tariff was filed by Meridian. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On January 30, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of February 14, 1997, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled March 4, 1997, meeting, the Commission considered Meridian's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02 and 20:10:24:03. The Commission finds that Meridian has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Meridian has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications services in South Dakota. The Commission approves Meridian's application for a certificate of authority. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that Meridian's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, effective March 28, 1997. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Meridian shall file informational copies of tariff changes with the Commission as the changes occur.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 11th day of March, 1997.

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, by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u>Mildred Kalbs</u>
Date: <u>3/12/97</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner