

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
NTI TELECOM, INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF)
AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN)
SOUTH DAKOTA)

ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY

TC97-174

On October 31, 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 NTI Telecom, Inc. (NTI).

NTI proposes to offer Message Toll Service, Incoming 800, Travel Card Service and Operator Services. A proposed tariff was filed by NTI. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On November 6, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of November 21, 1997, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled December 2, 1997, meeting, the Commission considered NTI's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that NTI not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission.

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 NTI has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. NTI 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 NTI's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that NTI not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that NTI's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, effective December 31, 1997, subject to the condition that NTI not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 12th day of December, 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><i>Debra Kaelo</i></u>
Date: <u>12/12/97</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