

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONNECTAMERICA, INC. D/B/A CONNECT US FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA)))	ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TC97-191
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On December 12, 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 ConnectAmerica, Inc. d/b/a Connect US (Connect US).

Connect US seeks statewide authority to offer inbound, outbound, conference, directory assistance, calling card, prepaid calling card, and private line services to presubscribed business customers and residential customers in the state of South Dakota. Connect US does not and will not offer alternative operator services. A proposed tariff was filed by Connect US. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On December 18, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of January 2, 1998, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled February 3, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered Connect US' request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Connect US 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 Connect US has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Connect US 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 Connect US' application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Connect US 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 Connect US' application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, effective February 12, 1998, subject to the condition that Connect US not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 13th day of February, 1998.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

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: _____

Date: _____

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

PAM NELSON, Commissioner

LASKA SCHOENFELDER,
Commissioner