

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
PRIDE AMERICA, INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE)
OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN)
SOUTH DAKOTA)**

**ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY**

TC98-006

On January 21, 1998, 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 Pride America, Inc. (Pride America).

Pride America is a switchless reseller of inbound and outbound telecommunications service to business and residential customers utilizing switched access. Pride America also plans to offer travel services. A proposed tariff was filed by Pride America. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On January 22, 1998, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of February 6, 1998, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled March 26, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered Pride America's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Pride America 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 Pride America has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Pride America 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 Pride America's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Pride America 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 Pride America's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, subject to the condition that Pride America not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 6th day of April, 1998.

<p>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>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.</p> <p>By: <u>Helaine Kalbo</u></p> <p>Date: <u>4/8/98</u></p> <p align="center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner