

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) WESTERN TELE-COMMUNICATIONS,) INC./RETAIL SALES GROUP D/B/A PEOPLE) LINK BY TCI FOR A CERTIFICATE OF) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE) TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN) SOUTH DAKOTA)	ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TC98-055
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On February 20, 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 Western Tele-Communications, Inc./Retail Sales Group d/b/a People Link by TCI (WTCI/RSG). On March 18, 1998, the Commission received a supplement to the application from WTCI/RSG.

WTCI/RSG proposes to provide intrastate toll service and to become a reseller of interexchange telecommunications services. WTCI/RSG intends to provide these services as a non-facilities based carrier by using prepaid debit calling cards and prepaid calling cards. A proposed tariff was filed by WTCI/RSG. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On February 26, 1998, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of March 13, 1998, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled May 12, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered WTCI/RSG's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that WTCI/RSG 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 WTCI/RSG has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. WTCI/RSG 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 WTCI/RSG's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that WTCI/RSG 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 WTCI/RSG's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, subject to the condition that WTCI/RSG not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 26th day of May, 1998.

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>Rebecca Kalbo</i></u>
Date: <u>5/26/98</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