

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

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

**ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY**

TC98-113

On June 9, 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 Big Planet, Inc. (Big Planet).

On a non-facilities-based basis, Big Planet proposes to offer 1+, 0+, 800, travel card, prepaid card service and directory assistance to both business and residential users. A proposed tariff was filed by Big Planet. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On June 11, 1998, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 26, 1998, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled September 10, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered Big Planet's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority as Big Planet had furnished the Commission with a surety bond.

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 Big Planet has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Big Planet 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 Big Planet's application for a certificate of authority. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that Big Planet's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of September, 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>Helaine Kalkes</i> </u>
Date: <u> <i>9/21/98</i> </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