

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
ST LONG DISTANCE, INC. FOR A)
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN)
SOUTH DAKOTA)

ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY

TC98-122

On June 29, 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 ST Long Distance, Inc. (ST).

ST proposes to sell Message Toll Service, inbound Wide Area Telecommunications Service and calling card services as a switchless reseller and not as a facilities-based provider. A proposed tariff was filed by ST. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On July 2, 1998, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 17, 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 ST's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that ST 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 ST has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. ST 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 ST's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that ST 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 ST's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, subject to the condition that ST not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that ST 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>Debbie Kelleo</u>
Date: <u>9/21/98</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