

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )  
 EQUALITY INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF )  
 AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE )  
 TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN )  
 SOUTH DAKOTA )

ORDER GRANTING  
 CERTIFICATE OF  
 AUTHORITY

TC98-185

On October 19, 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 Equality Inc. (Equality).

Equality proposes to provide interexchange telecommunications services such as 1+, 800 and travel card service. A proposed tariff was filed by Equality. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On October 22, 1998, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of November 6, 1998, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled January 6, 1999, meeting, the Commission considered Equality's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority.

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

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

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1999.

<p><b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b></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>Melaine Kalbo</u></p> <p>Date: <u>1/19/99</u></p> <p align="center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg  
 JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson  
 PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder  
 LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner