

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING FOR) APPROVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION) AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF) HAWARDEN, IOWA AND HEARTLAND) TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF IOWA)	ORDER APPROVING AGREEMENT TC99-032
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On April 1, 1999, Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa (Heartland) filed for approval by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) of an interconnection agreement between Heartland and the City of Hawarden, Iowa (Hawarden).

On April 8, 1999, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of this filing to interested individuals and entities. The notice stated that any person wishing to comment on the parties' request for approval had until April 28, 1999, to do so. No comments were filed. Commission staff filed a recommendation.

Heartland serves approximately 260 rural customers in its Akron and Hawarden exchanges which are in South Dakota. These are also referred to as West Akron and West Hawarden. Hawarden has a certificate of authority from the Iowa Utilities Board to provide telecommunications service for the Hawarden exchange which is in Iowa.

At its duly noticed May 12, 1999, meeting, the Commission considered whether to approve the agreement between Heartland and Hawarden.

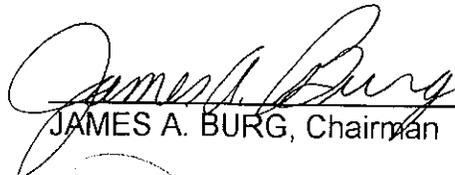
The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-81, and the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. In accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2), the Commission found that the agreement does not discriminate against a telecommunications carrier that is not a party to the agreement and the agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the agreement. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the agreement.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 18th day of May, 1999.

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 facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u>Delaine Kalbo</u>
Date: <u>5/19/99</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

 _____ JAMES A. BURG, Chairman
 _____ PAM NELSON, Commissioner
 _____ LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner