

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
THE FREE NETWORK, L.L.C. FOR A)
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN)
SOUTH DAKOTA)

ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY

TC99-033

On April 2, 1999, 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 The Free Network, L.L.C. (Free Network).

Free Network proposes to offer resold intrastate long distance services to the public on a statewide basis in South Dakota. Services will include message toll service, incoming 800/888 and travel card services. A proposed tariff was filed by Free Network. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On April 8, 1999, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 23, 1999, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its May 12, 1999, meeting, the Commission considered Free Network'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 Free Network has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Free Network 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 Free Network's application for a certificate of authority. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that Free Network's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, effective June 2, 1999. It is

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

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 first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u>Melaine Kalbo</u>
Date: <u>5/19/99</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