

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

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

**ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY

TC99-036**

On April 13, 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 SouthNet TeleComm Services, Inc. (SouthNet).

SouthNet proposes to offer toll telecommunications services in South Dakota, including interLATA and intraLATA switched and dedicated outbound interexchange services and calling card services accessed via company-provided 800/888 numbers. A proposed tariff was filed by SouthNet. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On April 15, 1999, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 30, 1999, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its May 12, 1999, meeting, the Commission considered SouthNet's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that SouthNet 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 SouthNet has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. SouthNet 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 SouthNet's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that SouthNet 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 SouthNet's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, effective June 13, 1999, subject to the condition that SouthNet not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that SouthNet 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><i>Rebecca Kalbo</i></u>
Date: <u>5/19/98</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