

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER GRANTING
ZONE TELECOM, INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE)	CERTIFICATE OF
OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)	AUTHORITY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN)	
SOUTH DAKOTA)	TC00-129

On August 24, 2000, 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 Zone Telecom, Inc. (Zone).

Zone proposes to offer a variety of competitive telecommunications services, including retail and wholesale interLATA private line, retail and wholesale calling cards, retail and wholesale switched interLATA long distance and operator services. A proposed tariff was filed by Zone. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On August 31, 2000, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 15, 2000, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its September 26, 2000, meeting, the Commission considered Zone's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Zone not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. Commission Staff further recommended a waiver of ARSD 20:10:24:02(8) and (11).

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02 and 20:10:24:03. The Commission finds that Zone has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Zone has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications services in South Dakota. Further, the Commission finds that there is good cause to waive subparagraphs (8) and (11) of ARSD 20:10:24:02. The Commission approves Zone's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Zone 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 Zone's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, effective October 24, 2000, subject to the condition that Zone not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission finds good cause to waive ARSD 20:10:24:02(8) and (11). It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 29th day of September, 2000.

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>Debra Kalbo</i></u>
Date:	<u>9/29/00</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