

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY SOUTH ) DAKOTA INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE ) COALITION FOR APPROVAL OF A ) RECIPROCAL TRANSPORT AND ) TERMINATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN G.C.C ) LICENSE L.L.C. AND HEARTLAND ) COMMUNICATIONS, INC. )	ORDER APPROVING AGREEMENT  TC00-031
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On March 2, 2000, the South Dakota Independent Telephone Coalition on behalf of Heartland Communications, Inc. (Heartland) filed for approval by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a reciprocal transport and termination agreement between G.C.C. License L.L.C. (GCC) and Heartland. The agreement had an effective date of January 1, 1999.

On March 9, 2000, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of this filing to interested individuals and entities. The notice stated that any person wishing to intervene had until March 24, 2000, to do so. No intervention was sought. Commission Staff filed comments.

At its duly noticed May 17, 2000, meeting, the Commission considered whether to approve the agreement between GCC and Heartland. Commission Staff recommended approval with an effective date as of the date of an Order approving the agreement.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, 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 with an effective date as of the date of this Order. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the agreement effective as of the date of this Order.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2000.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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><i>Debbie Kolbo</i></u>
Date: <u>5/25/00</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