

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

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| IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING FOR) | ORDER GRANTING |
| APPROVAL OF AN EXTENDED AREA) | APPROVAL OF EXTENDED |
| SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN) | AREA SERVICE |
| MCLEODUSA TELECOM DEVELOPMENT, INC.) | AGREEMENT |
| f/k/a DAKOTA TELECOM, INC. AND) | |
| JEFFERSON TELEPHONE COMPANY) | TC01-001 |

On January 2, 2001, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) pursuant to ARSD 20:10:32:11 received a petition for approval of an extended area service agreement between McLeodUSA Telecom Development, Inc. (McLeodUSA) f/k/a Dakota Telecom, Inc. and Jefferson Telephone Company. On January 8, 2001, the Commission received a revised petition for approval of an extended area service agreement clarifying that the first filing mistakenly made reference to the City of Jefferson and corrected the original petition to reflect that the petitioner desired to offer extended area service from Elk Point to the consumers within the Jefferson Exchange.

On January 4, 2001, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of January 19, 2001, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. At its regularly scheduled February 6, 2001, meeting, the Commission considered McLeodUSA's petition. Commission Staff recommended approval of the petition.

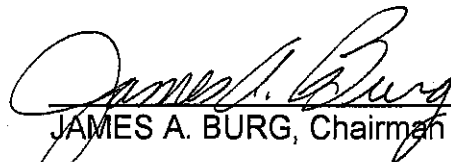
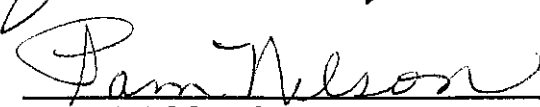
The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-31 and ARSD 20:10:32:11. The Commission found that McLeodUSA had shown that the extended area service agreement would not be contrary to universal service, public safety and welfare, quality of service, and consumer rights concerns. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the petition of McLeodUSA for approval of extended area service agreement is hereby approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 13th day of February, 2001.

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| 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><i>Aldine Kelbo</i></u> |
| Date: <u>2/14/01</u> |
| (OFFICIAL SEAL) |

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

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|  _____ JAMES A. BURG, Chairman |
|  _____ PAM NELSON, Commissioner |