

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

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

**ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY**

TC02-008

On January 25, 2002, 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 ECI Communications, Inc. (ECI).

ECI proposes to offer outbound and inbound telecommunications services, directory assistance service, calling card service, conference services, private line services and operator toll assistance services. A proposed tariff was filed by ECI. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On January 31, 2002, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of February 15, 2002, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its February 26, 2002, meeting, the Commission considered ECI's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that ECI 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 SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02 and 20:10:24:03. The Commission finds that ECI has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. ECI 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 ECI's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that ECI 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 ECI's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, effective March 25, 2002, subject to the condition that ECI not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 6th day of March, 2002.

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: Alaine Kalbo

Date: 3/7/02

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner