

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER GRANTING
BETTER WORLD TELECOM, INC. FOR A)	CERTIFICATE OF
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)	AUTHORITY
INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS)	
SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA)	TC03-036

On January 17, 2003, 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 Better World Telecom, Inc. (Better World).

Better World proposes to provide resold intrastate interexchange telecommunications services to and from all points within the state of South Dakota. A proposed tariff was filed by Better World. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On January 23, 2003, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of February 7, 2003, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its March 4, 2003, meeting, the Commission considered Better World's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Better World not offer a prepaid calling card or require or accept deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. Commission Staff further recommended a waiver of ARSD 20:10:24:02(8).

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 Better World has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Better World 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 ARSD 20:10:24:02(8). The Commission approves Better World's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Better World not offer a prepaid calling card or require or accept deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that Better World's application for a certificate of authority to provide interexchange telecommunications services is hereby granted effective March 20, 2003, subject to the condition that Better World not offer a prepaid calling card or require or accept deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission waives ARSD 20:10:24:02(8). It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 7th day of March, 2003.

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>Melaine Kalbo</u>
Date: <u>3/11/03</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner