

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )  
CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS )  
OPERATOR SERVICES, INC. FOR A )  
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE )  
O P E R A T O R     A S S I S T E D )  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND )  
SERVICES FOR PAYPHONES IN SOUTH )  
DAKOTA )

ORDER GRANTING  
CERTIFICATE OF  
AUTHORITY

TC03-059

On March 21, 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 Consolidated Communications Operator Services, Inc. (Consolidated).

Consolidated proposes to provide live and automated long distance assistance and directory assistance services, as well as services for coinless and coin-operated public telephones. A proposed tariff was filed by Consolidated. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On March 27, 2003, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 11, 2003, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its May 6, 2003, meeting, the Commission considered Consolidated's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Consolidated 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 Consolidated has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Consolidated 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 Consolidated's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Consolidated 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 Consolidated's application for a certificate of authority to provide operator assisted telecommunications services and services for payphones is hereby granted, effective May 21, 2003, subject to the condition that Consolidated 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 Consolidated shall file informational copies of tariff changes with the Commission as the changes occur.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2003.

<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 first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u>Melaine Kalbo</u>
Date: <u>5/20/03</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