

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER GRANTING
SAGE TELECOM, INC FOR A CERTIFICATE)	CERTIFICATE OF
OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)	AUTHORITY
INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS)	
SERVICES AND LOCAL EXCHANGE)	TC07-101
SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA)	

On September 11, 2007 the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application for a certificate of authority from Sage Telecom, Inc. (Sage).

On September 13, 2007, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 28, 2007 to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at it's regularly scheduled Commission meeting on February 12, 2008, the Commission considered Sage's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to a continuous \$25,000 surety bond, and subject to rural safeguards. Commission Staff further recommended waivers of ARSD 20:10:24:02(9) and 20:10:23:03(12).

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3 and 49-31-69 and ARSD 20:10:24:02, 20:10:24:03 and 20:10:32:03. The Commission finds that Sage has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Sage has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and 49-31-71, 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(9) and 20:10:23:03(12).

The Commission approves Sage's application for a certificate of authority, subject to a continuous \$25,000 surety bond, and subject to rural safeguards. The certificate of authority for Sage shall authorize it to offer local exchange services in South Dakota, except in those areas served by a rural telephone company. In the future, should Sage choose to provide local exchange services statewide, with respect to rural telephone companies, Sage will have to come before the Commission in another proceeding before being able to provide local service in that rural service area pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 253(f), which allows the Commission to require a company that seeks to provide service in a rural service area to meet the requirements in 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1) for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier. In addition, the granting of statewide certification will not affect the exemptions, suspensions, and modifications for rural telephone companies found in 47 U.S.C. § 251(f). It is therefore

ORDERED, that Sage's application for a certificate of authority to provide

interexchange telecommunications services and local exchange services is granted, subject to a continuous \$25,000 surety bond. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission shall authorize Sage to offer its local exchange services in South Dakota, except in those areas served by a rural telephone company. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission waives ARSD 20:10:24:02(9) and 20:10:32:03(12). It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this order constitutes Sage's certificate of authority as described above.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 27th day of February, 2008.

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>Christa Gurdahl</i></u>
Date: <u>2/27/08</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Steve Kolbeck
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner

Dustin Johnson
DUSTIN JOHNSON, Commissioner

