

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER GRANTING
ACCESS POINT, INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF)	CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE)	AUTHORITY
SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA)	TC08-030

On February 14, 2008, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application for a certificate of authority to provide local exchange services in South Dakota from Access Point, Inc. (Access Point).

On February 21, 2008, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of March 5, 2008, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled December 9, 2008, meeting, the Commission considered Access Point's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Access Point not offer any prepaid services (including prepaid calling cards) and not accept or require any deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission, and subject to rural safeguards. Commission Staff further recommended a waiver of ARSD 20:10:32:03(12)

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

The Commission approves Access Point's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Access Point not offer any prepaid services (including prepaid calling cards) and not accept or require any deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission, and subject to rural safeguards. The certificate of authority for Access Point 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 Access Point choose to provide local exchange services statewide, with respect to rural telephone companies, Access Point 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 Access Point's application for a certificate of authority to provide local exchange services is granted, subject to the condition that Access Point not offer any prepaid services (including prepaid calling cards) and not accept or require any deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission shall authorize Access Point to offer its local exchange services in South Dakota, except in those areas served by a rural telephone company; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission waives ARSD 20:10:32:03(12); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this order constitutes your certificate of authority as described above.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 16th day of December, 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, electronically.
By: <u>Delaine Kalbo</u>
Date: <u>12/17/08</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Steve Kolbeck
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner