

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
LIBERTY-BELL, TELECOM, LLC FOR A)
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)
FACILITIES-BASED LOCAL EXCHANGE,)
EXCHANGE ACCESS, AND INTEREXCHANGE)
SERVICE IN SOUTH DAKOTA)**

**ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY**

TC10-081

On June 22, 2010, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from Liberty-Bell, Telecom, LLC (Liberty-Bell) for certificates of authority to provide facilities-based local exchange and interexchange services in South Dakota. The Company applied for authority to provide services throughout existing Qwest territories. On June 24, 2010, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 16, 2010, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 27, 2010, the Commission considered Liberty-Bell's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Liberty-Bell 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 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 20:10:32:03. The Commission finds that Liberty-Bell has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Liberty-Bell 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 Liberty-Bell's application for a certificate of authority subject to the condition that Liberty-Bell 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 Liberty-Bell shall authorize it to offer facilities-based local exchange and interexchange services in South Dakota, except in those areas served by a rural telephone company. In the future, should Liberty-Bell choose to provide local exchange services statewide, with respect to rural telephone companies, Liberty-Bell 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

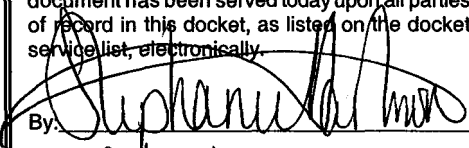
ORDERED, that Liberty-Bell's application for a certificate of authority to provide facilities-based local exchange and interexchange services is granted, subject to the condition that Liberty-Bell not offer any prepaid services (including prepaid calling cards) and not accept or require any deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission, and subject to rural safeguards. It is further

ORDERED, that this certificate of authority authorizes Liberty-Bell to offer its facilities-based local exchange and interexchange services in South Dakota, except in those areas served by a rural

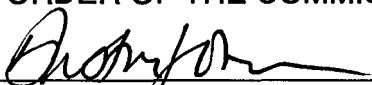
telephone company. It is further

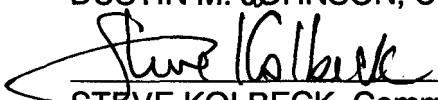
ORDERED, that this order constitutes Liberty-Bell's certificate of authority as described above.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd day of August, 2010.

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>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.</p> <p>By: <u></u></p> <p>Date: <u>08/02/10</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman


STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner


GARY HANSON, Commissioner