

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )</b>	<b>ORDER GRANTING AMENDED</b>
<b>OF INTERSTATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS )</b>	<b>CERTIFICATES OF AUTHORITY</b>
<b>COOPERATIVE, INC. FOR AN AMENDED )</b>	
<b>CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY )</b>	<b>TC12-182</b>

On October 23, 2012, Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (ITC) filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an Application for Approval of Amendment to Certificates of Authority: 1) an Amendment to the Certificate of Authority of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (ITC) to permit it to offer local exchange service in the Stockholm-Strandburg (Stockholm) service area, and 2) an Amendment to the Certificate of Authority of SSTELECOM, Inc. (SSTI) to permit ITC to operate as the competitive local exchange carrier. These amendments are in connection with the prospective merger of Stockholm and SSTI into ITC.

On October 25, 2012, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of November 9, 2012, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On November 7, 2012, ITC responded to staff's data request and applied for a waiver of ARSD 20:10:32:03: (6), (7), (8)(c), (10), (13), (14), (15), (18), (19), (20), and (22). On November 9, 2012, ITC responded to staff's second data request. On November 13, 2012, ITC responded to staff's third data request and requested removal of the bond requirements contained in the Order granting SSTI's Certificate of Authority in TC05-223.

On November 20, 2012, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the request for Amended Certificates of Authority. Staff recommended the Commission: 1) grant the waiver of ARSD 20:10:32:03: (6), (7), (8)(c), (10), (13), (14), (15), (18), (19), (20), and (22); 2) approve ITC's amended Certificate of Authority; 3) approve SSTI's amended Certificate of Authority and its transfer to ITC; and 4) waive SSTI's Surety Indemnity Bond requirement.

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 20:10:32:03. The Commission finds that ITC has met the legal requirements established for the granting of Amended Certificates of Authority. ITC 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 pursuant to SDCL 49-31-69, the Amended Certificates of Authority are in the public interest and shall be granted. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that ITC's request for waiver of ARSD 20:10:32:03: (6), (7), (8)(c), (10), (13), (14), (15), (18), (19), (20), and (22) shall be granted; and it is further

ORDERED, that ITC's request for an Amended Certificate of Authority shall be granted; and it is further

ORDERED, that ITC's local exchange service territory following consummation of the merger shall consist of the local exchange service areas of ITC and Stockholm; and it is further

ORDERED, that SSTI's request for an Amended Certificate of Authority and its transfer to ITC shall be granted; and it is further

ORDERED, that SSTI's Surety Indemnity Bond requirement shall be waived; and it is further

ORDERED, that this Order is effective January 1, 2013, contingent upon completion of the mergers.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 29th day of November, 2012.

<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, electronically.
By: <u>[Signature]</u>
Date: <u>Nov. 29, 2012</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER:

[Signature]  
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

[Signature]  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

[Signature]  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner