

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR)	ORDER GRANTING
APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE)	AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY OF VENTURE)	AUTHORITY AND GRANTING
COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, INC.)	WAIVER
AND WAIVER OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS)	
OF ARSD 20:10:32:03)	TC14-087

On November 24, 2014, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application for approval of an amendment to the certificate of authority held by Venture Communications Cooperative, Inc. (Venture) and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Western Telephone Company, Inc. (Western) seeking: 1) an amendment to the certificate of authority of Venture to permit it to offer local exchange service to the former customers of Western in the Cresbard, Faulkton, and Orient telephone exchanges (Western Exchanges); and 2) waiver of the requirements under ARSD 20:10:32:03. According to the application, Western will be merged with and into Venture on or after January 1, 2015. Venture provided notification of the merger to the Commission, as required by SDCL 49-31-20, on November 18, 2014.

On November 26, 2014, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of December 12, 2014, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On December 3, 2014, Venture filed updated information to be in compliance ARSD 20:10:32:03.

On December 23, 2014, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the request for an amended certificate of authority. 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 the Venture meets the legal requirements established for the granting of an amended certificate of authority. Venture has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and 49-31-71, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications services in the requested areas. Further, the Commission finds that pursuant to SDCL 49-31-69, the amended certificate of authority is in the public interest and shall be granted. The Commission also granted the waiver. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that Venture's request for an amended certificate of authority shall be granted to add the exchanges of Cresbard, Faulkton, and Orient on or after January 1, 2015; and it is further

ORDERED, that the Applicants requested waiver of ARSD 20:10:32:03 is granted; and it is further

ORDERED, that this Order is effective upon completion of the mergers.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 30th day of December, 2014.

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: *Joy Lashley*

Date: 12.30.14

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner