

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF SQF, )  
LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO )  
PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE IN SOUTH )  
DAKOTA )  
)  
)**

**ORDER GRANTING  
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY  
AND GRANTING WAIVER**

**TC18-014**

On May 16, 2018, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from SQF, LLC (SQF) for a Certificate of Authority to provide local exchange services in South Dakota. SQF intends to provide wholesale local exchange services primarily to business and other entity customers such as wireless carriers, emergency responders, backhaul providers, public safety agencies, etc. Applicant does not intend to provide its services to residential customers.

On May 18, 2018, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 1, 2018, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On May 30, 2018, SQF responded to staff's data request.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on June 26, 2018, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended granting a certificate of authority with the conditions that, for retail purposes, SQF not offer any prepaid services including prepaid calling cards, not accept or require any deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission, and be subject to rural safeguards. Commission staff also recommended granting a waiver of ARSD 20:10:32:10.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3, 49-31-69 through 49-31-75, and ARSD 20:10:32:03, and 20:10:32:10. The Commission finds that SQF has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. SQF 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. The Commission voted unanimously to approve SQF's application for a certificate of authority subject to the conditions that, for retail purposes, SQF not offer any prepaid services including prepaid calling cards, not accept or require any deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission, and be subject to rural safeguards, and to grant the waiver of ARSD 20:10:32:10.

It is therefore

**ORDERED**, that SQF's application for a certificate of authority to provide local exchange services is granted, subject to the terms and conditions that, for retail purposes, SQF 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 that SQF be subject to rural safeguards. It is further

**ORDERED**, that this certificate of authority authorizes SQF to offer its local exchange services in South Dakota, except in those areas served by a rural telephone company. It is further

**ORDERED**, that SQF's requested waiver of ARSD 20:10:32:10 is hereby granted. It is further

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July 2018.

**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 or by mail.

By: Adam DeHueck

Date: 7/3/18

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner