BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF STANDARD TANDEM, LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE AND INTEREXCHANGE LONG DISTANCE SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA

ORDER GRANTING APPROVAL
OF JOINT STIPULATION; ORDER
GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY

TC19-048

On October 30, 2019, the Commission received a filing from Standard Tandem, LLC (Standard Tandem) requesting a Certificate of Authority to provide local exchange and interexchange long distance services in South Dakota to operate as a wholesale and retail provider of competitive telecommunications service.

On October 31, 2019, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of November 15, 2019, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listsery. On November 27, 2019, the Commission issued an Order Granting Intervention to the South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA). On January 3, 2020, July 7, 2020, and October 2, 2020, Standard Tandem filed responses to Commission staff's Data Requests. On October 6, 2020, Standard Tandem and SDTA filed a Joint Stipulation of the Parties.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3 and 49-31-69 through 49-31-75, as well as ARSD 20:10:24:02 and ARSD 20:10:32:03.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of October 13, 2020, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the terms and conditions included in the Joint Stipulation and subject to the condition that Standard Tandem not offer any prepaid services, including prepaid calling cards, and not accept any deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission, and be subject to rural safeguards.

The Commission finds that Standard Tandem has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Standard Tandem thus, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and 49-31-71, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial, and managerial capabilities to provide local exchange telecommunications services in South Dakota. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Joint Stipulation and grant Standard Tandem a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Standard Tandem not offer any prepaid services, including prepaid calling cards, and not accept or require any deposits or advance payments, for retail purposes, without prior approval of the Commission, and subject to rural safeguards. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Stipulation of the Parties is hereby approved. It is further

ORDERED, that Standard Tandem's application for a certificate of authority to provide interexchange and local exchange services in South Dakota is granted, subject to the terms and conditions in the Joint Stipulation and subject to the condition that Standard Tandem not offer any prepaid services, including prepaid calling cards, and not accept or require any deposits or advance payments, for retail purposes, without prior approval of the Commission. It is further

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

ORDERED, that this order constitutes Standard Tandem's Certificate of Authority as described above.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 14th day of October 2020.

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: Make M. Maiss

Date: 10/14/2020

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

GARY HANSON, Chairman

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner