

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER GRANTING
TELEPHONE ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR A)	CERTIFICATE OF
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)	AUTHORITY
INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS)	
SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA)	TC00-179

On November 8, 2000, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission), in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02, received an application for a certificate of authority from Telephone Associates, Inc. (Telephone Associates).

Telephone Associates proposes to offer direct dial outbound and inbound telecommunications services, and travel card service to residential and business customers, utilizing switched and dedicated access facilities. A proposed tariff was filed by Telephone Associates. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On November 9, 2000, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of November 24, 2000, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its January 17, 2001, meeting, the Commission considered Telephone Associates' request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority. Commission Staff further recommended a waiver of ARSD 20:10:24:02(8).

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 20:10:24:03. The Commission finds that Telephone Associates has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Telephone Associates has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications services in South Dakota. Further, the Commission finds that there is good cause to waive ARSD 20:10:24:02(8). The Commission approves Telephone Associates's application for a certificate of authority. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that Telephone Associates' application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission finds good cause to waive ARSD 20:10:24:02(8). It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Telephone Associates shall file informational copies of tariff changes with the Commission as the changes occur.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24th day of January, 2001.

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, by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By: Alaine Kalbs

Date: 1/25/01

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Pam Nelson

PAM NELSON, Vice Chairman

Laska Schoenfelder

LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner