

EXHIBIT A

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

To Conduct Business As A Telecommunications Company,
Including Local Exchange Services,
Within The State of South Dakota

Authority was Granted September 13, 2000
Docket No. TC00-085

This is to certify that

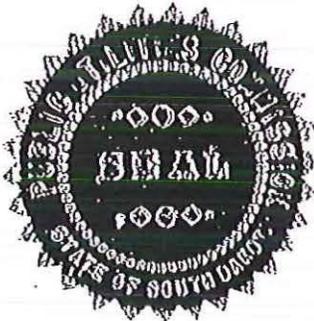
MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS

*is authorized to provide telecommunications services, including local
exchange services, in South Dakota.*

This certificate is issued in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and 49-31-69
and ARSD 20:10:24:02 and 20:10:32:03, and is subject to all of the conditions
and limitations contained in the rules and statutes governing its conduct of
offering telecommunications services.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 19th day of September, 2000.

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION:



James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner