

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
U.S. REPUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR)
A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN)
SOUTH DAKOTA)

ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY

TC97-024

On March 10, 1997, 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 U.S. Republic Communications, Inc. (Republic).

Republic seeks authority to provide resold long distance telecommunications services in South Dakota. Initially, Republic's operator services will be provided through the utilization of AT&T's existing operator services. A proposed tariff was filed by Republic. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On March 13, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of March 28, 1997, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled April 1, 1997, meeting, the Commission considered Republic's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Republic not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02 and 20:10:24:03. The Commission finds that Republic has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Republic has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications services in South Dakota. The Commission approves Republic's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that Republic not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that Republic's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, effective May 10, 1997, subject to the condition that Republic not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 10th day of April, 1997.

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: <u>Alaine Kaedo</u>
Date: <u>4/10/97</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner