

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER GRANTING
S&S COMMUNICATIONS/ALTERNA-CELL)	CERTIFICATE OF
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO)	AUTHORITY
PROVIDE INTEREXCHANGE)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN)	TC00-114
SOUTH DAKOTA)	

On July 21, 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 S&S Communications/Alterna-Cell (S&S).

The applicant intends to offer interstate and intrastate long distance, voice mail services, 800 number services and calling card services. A proposed tariff was filed by S&S. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On July 27, 2000, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of August 11, 2000, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its December 12, 2000, meeting, the Commission considered S&S's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the following:

1. a continuous \$50,000 (at a minimum) surety bond; and
2. S&S reporting to the Commission the current level of prepaid customers and updating its bond every six months to provide 100% coverage of the prepaid amounts not covered under the collateral agreement.

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 S&S has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. S&S 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 S&S' application for a certificate of authority, subject to the following:

1. Aberdeen Finance Corporation (AFC) and S&S sending a letter to all of S&S' long distance customers for which AFC holds financing agreements, informing them of the collateral agreement referenced below;
2. a continuous \$50,000 (at a minimum) surety bond; and
3. S&S reporting to the Commission the current level of prepaid customers and updating its bond every six months to provide 100% coverage of the prepaid amounts not covered under the collateral agreement. The collateral agreement between S&S and AFC dated December 8, 2000, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, is incorporated herein by reference as though here fully set forth.

As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that S&S' application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted, subject to the following:

1. Aberdeen Finance Corporation (AFC) and S&S sending a letter to all of S&S' long distance customers for which AFC holds financing agreements, informing them of the collateral agreement referenced below;
2. a continuous \$50,000 (at a minimum) surety bond; and
3. S&S reporting to the Commission the current level of prepaid customers and updating its bond every six months to provide 100% coverage of the prepaid amounts not covered under the collateral agreement. The collateral agreement between S&S and AFC dated December 8, 2000, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, is incorporated herein by reference as though here fully set forth.

It is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of December, 2000.

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 Kelbo

Date: 12/22/00

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner