

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER GRANTING
FAIRPOINT COMMUNICATIONS SOLUTIONS)	CERTIFICATE OF
CORP. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY)	AUTHORITY
TO PROVIDE INTEREXCHANGE)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND)	TC00-141
LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES IN SOUTH)	
DAKOTA)	

On October 2, 2000, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application for a certificate of authority from FairPoint Communications Solutions Corp. (FairPoint).

FairPoint proposes to offer various types of services, including Message Telephone Service, Wide Area Telephone Service, WATS-like services, Foreign Exchange Services, private lines, tie lines, switched and special access service, cellular service, PCS service, local switched service, unbundled local links or ports, switching services, information services, Internet services, and other services and facilities of communications common carriers and other entities. A proposed tariff was filed by FairPoint.

On October 5, 2000, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of October 20, 2000, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled April 17, 2001, meeting, the Commission considered FairPoint's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to rural safeguards, and subject to the condition that FairPoint 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 SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3 and 49-31-69 and ARSD 20:10:24:02, 20:10:24:03 and 20:10:32:03. The Commission finds that FairPoint has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. FairPoint has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and 49-31-71, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications services in South Dakota.

The Commission approves FairPoint's application for a certificate of authority, subject to rural safeguards, and subject to the condition that FairPoint not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. The certificate of authority for FairPoint shall authorize it to offer local exchange services in South Dakota, except in those areas served by a rural telephone company. In the future, should FairPoint choose to provide local exchange services statewide, with respect to rural telephone companies, FairPoint will have to come before the Commission in another proceeding before being able to provide local service in that

rural service area pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 253(f) which allows the Commission to require a company that seeks to provide service in a rural service area to meet the requirements in 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1) for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier. In addition, the granting of statewide certification will not affect the exemptions, suspensions, and modifications for rural telephone companies found in 47 U.S.C. § 251(f). It is therefore

ORDERED, that FairPoint's application for a certificate of authority to provide interexchange telecommunications services and local exchange services is granted, subject to the condition that FairPoint not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that FairPoint shall file informational copies of tariff changes with the Commission as the changes occur; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission shall authorize FairPoint to offer its local exchange services in South Dakota, except in those areas served by a rural telephone company.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24th day of April, 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 facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.	
By:	<u>Alaine Kelso</u>
Date:	<u>4/24/01</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner