

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )</b>	<b>ORDER GRANTING</b>
<b>HILLS TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC. FOR A )</b>	<b>CERTIFICATE OF</b>
<b>CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE )</b>	<b>AUTHORITY</b>
<b>LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES IN SOUTH )</b>	
<b>DAKOTA )</b>	<b>TC04-073</b>

On April 5, 2004, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application for a certificate of authority from Hills Telephone Company, Inc. (Hills).

Hills proposes to offer local telephone exchange services in Valley Springs and North Larchwood, South Dakota local telephone exchanges. A proposed tariff was filed by Hills.

On April 8, 2004, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 23, 2004, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled May 11, 2004, meeting, the Commission considered Hills' request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, effective June 4, 2004.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-69 and ARSD 20:10:32:03. The Commission finds that Hills has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Hills has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-71, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications services in South Dakota.

The Commission approves Hills' application for a certificate of authority, effective June 4, 2004. The certificate of authority for Hills shall authorize it to offer local exchange services in the Valley Springs and North Larchwood, South Dakota local telephone exchanges. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Hills' application for a certificate of authority to provide local exchange services in the Valley Springs and North Larchwood, South Dakota local telephone exchanges is granted, effective June 4, 2004; and it is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 13th day of May, 2004.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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: _____
Date: _____
_____
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

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ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

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GARY HANSON, Commissioner

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JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner