

**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>FIRST COMMUNICATIONS, LLC FOR A )</b>	<b>CERTIFICATE OF</b>
<b>CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE )</b>	<b>AUTHORITY</b>
<b>INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS )</b>	
<b>SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA )</b>	<b>TC06-147</b>

On August 18, 2006, 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 First Communications, LLC (First Communications). A proposed tariff was filed by First Communications. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On August 24, 2006, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 8, 2006, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its October 19, 2006, meeting, the Commission considered First Communications' request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that First Communications not offer any prepaid services (including prepaid calling cards) and not accept or require any 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 ARSD 20:10:24:02 and 20:10:24:03. The Commission finds that First Communications has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. First Communications 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 First Communications' application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that First Communications not offer any prepaid services (including prepaid calling cards) and not accept or require any deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that First Communications' application for a certificate of authority to provide interexchange telecommunications services is hereby granted, subject to the condition that First Communications not offer any prepaid services (including prepaid calling cards) and not accept or require any deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

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

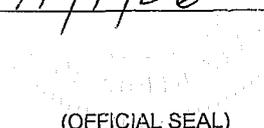
Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2006.

**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: *Nelaine Kalbo*

Date: 11/1/06

  
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

*Robert K. Sahr*  
ROBERT K SAHR, Chairman

*Dustin M. Johnson*  
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner

*Gary Hanson*  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner