

## DECISION MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COMMISSIONER KJELLANDER  
COMMISSIONER REDFORD  
COMMISSIONER SMITH  
COMMISSION SECRETARY  
LEGAL  
WORKING FILE

**FROM:** CAROLEE HALL

**DATE:** JULY 10, 2014

**RE:** APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND THE  
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN QWEST  
CORPORATION D/B/A CENTURYLINK QC ("CENTURYLINK") F/K/A  
U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., AND CRICKET  
COMMUNICATIONS, INC. ("CRICKET"); CASE NO. QWE-T-00-20.

### BACKGROUND

Under the provision of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, interconnection agreements must be submitted to the Commission for approval. 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(1). The Commission may reject an agreement adopted by negotiations only if it finds that the agreement: (1) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or (2) implementation of the agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A). As the Commission noted in Order No. 28427, companies voluntarily entering into interconnection agreements "may negotiate terms, prices and conditions that do not comply with either the FCC rules or with the provision of Section 251 (b) or (c)." Order No. 28427 at 11 (emphasis in original). This comports with the FCC's statement that "a state commission shall have authority to approve an interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation even if the terms of the agreement do not comply with the requirements of [Part 51]." 47 C.F.R. § 51.3.

### CURRENT APPLICATION

CenturyLink and Cricket submitted an amended Interconnection Agreement between the parties in Case No. QWE-T-00-20. According to the Company, the original Agreement was approved by this Commission on January 26, 2014. See Order No. 28618. This amendment is to

change the Bill and Keep arrangement between the companies and is in compliance with the recent Federal Communication Commission's Order. See FCC Docket No. 01-92. The general terms and conditions are set forth in Attachment 1 to this amended agreement.

#### **STAFF ANALYSIS**

Staff has reviewed the Application and does not find any terms or conditions that it considers to be discriminatory or contrary to the public interest. Staff believes that the Agreement is consistent with the public interest as identified in the pro-competitive policies of this Commission, the Idaho Legislature, and the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. Accordingly, Staff believes that the Agreement merits the Commission's approval.

#### **COMMISSION DECISION**

Does the Commission agree?



udmemos/Interconnection/wireless and paging/QWE-T-00-20 CENTURYLINK and Cricket