

**BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
OF VERIZON NORTHWEST INC. FOR ) CASE NO. VZN-T-06-03  
APPROVAL OF TWO AMENDMENTS TO )  
AN EXISTING INTERCONNECTION )  
AGREEMENT FOR THE STATE OF IDAHO )  
PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. § 252(e) )**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
OF VERIZON NORTHWEST INC. AND SBC ) CASE NO. ATT-T-98-01/  
LONG DISTANCE, LLC DBA SBC LONG ) GTE-T-98-08  
DISTANCE DBA AT&T LONG DISTANCE )  
FOR APPROVAL OF TWO AMENDMENTS )  
TO AN EXISTING INTERCONNECTION ) ORDER NO. 30231  
AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. § )  
252(e) )**

In these cases, the Commission is asked to approve amendments to existing and previously approved Interconnection Agreements. With this Order the Commission approves the amendments to Agreements.

**BACKGROUND**

Under the provisions 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.

## THE CURRENT APPLICATIONS

1. Verizon Northwest Inc. and CommPartners, LLC (Case No. VZN-T-06-03). In this Application, the parties request that the Commission approve two amendments to an existing agreement approved by the Commission on March 9, 2006. With this filing, the agreement is amended to include the Unitary Rate amendment and the DSO Loop/Resale Discount amendment.

2. Verizon Northwest Inc. and SBC Long Distance, LLC dba SBC Long Distance dba AT&T Long Distance (Case. No. ATT-T-98-01/GTE-T-98-08). In this case, the parties request that the Commission approve two amendments to an existing agreement approved by the Commission on February 11, 1999. The agreement is amended to include the Unitary Rate amendment and the DSO Loop/Resale Discount amendment.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff reviewed the Applications and did not find any terms or conditions that it considers to be discriminatory or contrary to the public interest. Staff believes that the Applications are consistent with the pro-competitive policies of this Commission, the Idaho Legislature, and the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. Accordingly, Staff recommended Commission approval of the amendments to the Agreements.

## COMMISSION DECISION

Under the terms of the Telecommunications Act, interconnection agreements must be submitted to the Commission for approval. 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(1). The Commission's review is limited. The Commission may reject an agreement adopted by negotiation only if it finds that the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement or implementation of the agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. *Id.* Based upon our review of the Applications and the Staff's recommendation, the Commission finds that the Agreements are consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity and do not discriminate. Therefore, the Commission finds that the Agreements should be approved. However, approval of these Agreements does not negate the responsibility of either of the parties to these Agreements to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity if they are offering local exchange services or to comply with *Idaho Code* §§ 62-604 and 62-606 if they are providing other non-basic local telecommunications services as defined by *Idaho Code* § 62-603.

**ORDER**

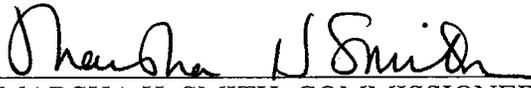
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the amended Interconnection Agreement of Verizon Northwest Inc. and CommPartners, LLC, Case No. VZN-T-06-03, is approved.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the amended Interconnection Agreement of Verizon Northwest Inc. and SBC Long Distance, LLC dba SBC Long Distance dba AT&T Long Distance, Case No. ATT-T-98-01/GTE-T-98-08, is approved.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order with regard to any matter decided in this Order. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. *See Idaho Code § 61-626.*

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January 2007.

  
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PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

  
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MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

  
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DENNIS S. HANSEN, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

  
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Jean D. Jewell  
Commission Secretary

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