

**BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN THE MATTER OF LEVEL 3 )  
COMMUNICATIONS, LLC PETITION FOR ) CASE NO. QWE-T-05-11  
ARBITRATION PURSUANT TO SECTION )  
252(b) OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT )  
OF 1996 OF THE RATES, TERMS, AND )  
CONDITIONS OF INTERCONNECTION WITH ) ORDER NO. 29890  
QWEST CORPORATION )**

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This case was initiated by a Petition filed by Level 3 Communications requesting arbitration of an Interconnection Agreement between Level 3 and Qwest Corporation pursuant to Section 252 of the federal Telecommunications Act. *See* 47 U.S.C. §252(b). On August 3, 2005, the Commission issued a Procedural Order, appointing an arbitrator and establishing a schedule to complete the arbitration. Order No. 29819. On October 5, 2005, Level 3 and Qwest filed a Joint Motion to Extend the Procedural Schedule. The Joint Motion states that the parties have been negotiating in an effort to reach a settlement on the terms and conditions of an interconnection agreement, and “the parties agree that focusing on negotiations, rather than continued efforts in a litigation, best serves the likelihood of resolution.” Accordingly, the parties in their Motion ask the Commission to extend the deadlines for conducting the hearings and to complete the arbitration. The parties propose to modify the deadlines normally established pursuant to Section 252 of the federal Telecommunications Act. The parties agreed that the hearing deadline may be extended to November 30, 2005, and that the Commission will have until March 1, 2006 to issue a final ruling on arbitration of the interconnection agreement.

Based on the agreement of the parties, the Commission grants the Joint Motion filed by the parties and extends the procedural schedule as outlined in the Motion. Section 252 favors negotiation of interconnection agreements and provides for mandatory arbitration in the event negotiations for an agreement are unsuccessful. We support the parties’ continued discussions for an interconnection agreement, and thus extend the procedural schedule to complete the arbitration as requested by the parties. If negotiations ultimately are not successful, the parties must propose a new schedule in order to convene a hearing before November 30, 2005 and allow the Commission adequate time to complete a final Order by March 1, 2006.

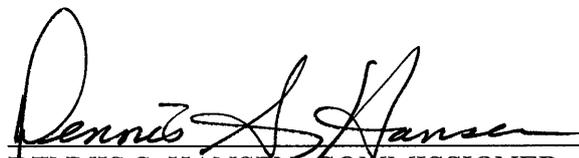
**ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Joint Motion to Extend Procedural Schedule filed by Level 3 Communications and Qwest Corporation is granted. If the parties are not able to negotiate terms for an interconnection agreement, they must propose a new schedule in order to convene a hearing in this case before November 30, 2005 and allow the Commission adequate time to complete a final Order by March 1, 2006.

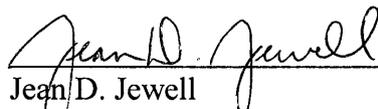
DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2005.

  
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PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

  
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MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

  
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DENNIS S. HANSEN, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jean D. Jewell  
Commission Secretary

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