

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
QWEST CORPORATION, DBA CENTURYLINK)
QC, FOR APPROVAL OF ITS)
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT WITH)
RCLEC, INC. PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. § 252(e))
ORDER NO. 33421
)

In this case the Commission is asked to approve the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and RCLEC, Inc. With this Order, the Commission approves their Interconnection Agreement.

BACKGROUND

Under the provisions of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (“the Act”), interconnection agreements, including amendments thereto, 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 APPLICATION

On October 23, 2015, CenturyLink and RCLEC filed a joint Application for approval of their Interconnection Agreement. In the Application, the parties state that the joint filing contains rates, terms and conditions for interconnecting their networks. According to the parties, the terms of the Interconnection Agreement were reached through voluntary negotiations without resort to mediation. The filing also includes Exhibit B (Service Performance Indicators) and Exhibit K (Performance Assurance Plan) as required by the Commission.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff reviewed the Application and did not find any terms or conditions that it considers to be discriminatory or contrary to the public interest. Staff believes that the Agreement referenced above is consistent with the pro-competitive policies of this Commission, the Idaho Legislature, and the federal Telecommunications Act. Accordingly, Staff recommended that the Commission approve the Agreement.

COMMISSION DECISION

Under the terms of the Telecommunications Act, interconnection agreements, including amendments thereto, must be submitted to the Commission for approval. 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(1). However, 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 Application and Staff's recommendation, the Commission finds that the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity and does not discriminate. Therefore, the Commission finds that the Agreement should be approved. Approval of the Agreement does not negate the responsibility of either party to the Agreement 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

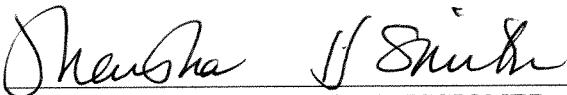
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and RCLEC, Inc., Case No. QWE-T-15-06, is approved.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order (or in issues finally decided by this Order) may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of 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 and 62-619.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 18th
day of November 2015.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

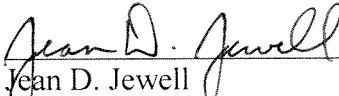


MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER



KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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