

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT APPLICATION)	
OF QWEST CORPORATION AND PROJECT)	CASE NO. QWE-T-03-20
MUTUAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE FOR)	
APPROVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION)	
AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. § 252(e).)	
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IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT APPLICATION)	
OF VERIZON NORTHWEST, INC. AND MCI)	CASE NO. VZN-T-03-6
WORLDCOM COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR)	
APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO A)	
PREVIOUSLY APPROVED INTERCONNECTION)	ORDER NO. 29341
AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. § 252(e).)	
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In these cases the Commission is asked to approve a new interconnection agreement and an amendment to a previously approved interconnection agreement.

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 provisions of Section 251(b) or (c).” Order No. 28427 at 11 (emphasis 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

The new interconnection agreement and the amendment to a previously approved interconnection agreement are discussed in greater detail below.

1. Qwest Corporation and Project Mutual Telephone Cooperative (Case No. QWE-T-03-20). In this Application, the parties request that the Commission approve a resale interconnection agreement.

2. Verizon Northwest, Inc. and MCI Worldcom Communications, Inc. (Case No. VZN-T-03-6). In this Amendment, terms and conditions are added regarding collocation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Staff has reviewed these Applications and did not find any terms and conditions to be discriminatory or contrary to the public interest. Staff believes that the new interconnection agreement and the amendment to a previously approved interconnection agreement are consistent with the pro-competitive policies of this Commission, the Idaho Legislature, and the federal Telecommunications Act. Accordingly, Staff believes that the Applications merit the Commission's approval.

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, however. 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, the Staff's recommendation and on the fact no other person commented on these Applications, the Commission finds that the new interconnection agreement and the amendment to a previously approved interconnection agreement are consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity and do not discriminate. Therefore, the Commission finds that these Applications should be approved. However, approval of these Applications does not negate the responsibility of any of the parties to these agreements to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity if they are offering local exchange services or complying 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 new interconnection agreement and the amendment to a previously approved interconnection agreement discussed above are approved.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the interconnection agreement between Qwest Corporation and Project Mutual Telephone Cooperative, Case No. QWE-T-03-20, is approved.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the amendment to the interconnection agreement between Verizon Northwest, Inc. and MCI Worldcom Communications, Inc., Case No. VZN-T-03-6, is approved.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order (or in issues finally decided by this Order) or in interlocutory Orders previously issued in these Case Nos. QWE-T-03-20 and VZN-T-03-6 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 or in interlocutory Orders previously issued in these cases. 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.*

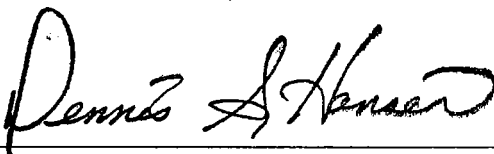
DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho, this 8th day of October 2003.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

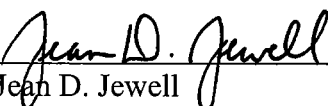


MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER



DENNIS S. HANSEN, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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