

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: COMMISSIONER KJELLANDER
COMMISSIONER SMITH
COMMISSIONER HANSEN
COMMISSION SECRETARY
LEGAL
WORKING FILE

FROM: DOUG COOLEY

DATE: APRIL 8, 2004

RE: STAFF REVIEW OF INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS; CASE
NOS. USW-T-99-3, USW-T-00-21, QWE-T-02-12, VZN-T-04-4, VZN-T-04-5
AND QWE-T-02-2.

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 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 recently 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 with 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 Commission has been asked to approve two interconnection agreements and four amendments to existing interconnection agreements. The items are discussed in greater detail below.

1. Qwest Corporation and Covad Communications Company (Case No. USW-T-99-3). In this Application, the parties request that the Commission approve an amendment to an existing interconnection agreement. The amendment adds terms and conditions regarding CLEC maintenance of common area splitter collocations.

2. Qwest Corporation and Electric Lightwave Inc. (Case No. USW-T-00-21). In this Application, the parties request that the Commission approve an amendment to an existing interconnection agreement. The amendment adds terms and rates regarding DC power reduction procedures.

3. Qwest Corporation and Excel Telecommunications, Inc. (Case No. QWE-T-02-12). In this Application, the parties request that the Commission approve an amendment to an existing interconnection agreement. The amendment adds terms and rates regarding Qwest DSL with UNE-P.

4. Verizon Northwest, Inc. and AIRPEAK Communications LLP (Case No. VZN-T-04-4). In this case, the parties request that the Commission approve an interconnection agreement. AIRPEAK has elected to adopt the Nextel West/Verizon agreement.

5. Verizon Northwest, Inc. and Northwest Telephone, Inc. (Case No. VZN-T-04-5). In this case, the parties request that the Commission approve an interconnection agreement. The terms are similar to those already approved by this Commission. This agreement also contains an amendment addressing terms specified by the Federal Communications Commission in the Triennial Review Order (TRO).

6. Qwest Corporation and XO Idaho, Inc. (Case No. QWE-T-02-2). In this Application, the parties request that the Commission approve an amendment to an existing interconnection agreement. The amendment adds terms and rates regarding various network elements.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Staff has reviewed the Applications and did not find that any terms or conditions are discriminatory or contrary to the public interest. Staff believes that the agreements are consistent with the pro-competitive policies of this Commission, the Idaho Legislature, and the federal

Telecommunications Act. Accordingly, Staff believes that the agreements merit the Commission's approval.

COMMISSION DECISION

Does the Commission approve the Applications for interconnection and amendments to existing interconnection agreements?



Doug Cooley

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