

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF VERIZON NORTHWEST INC. FOR) **CASE NO. VZN-T-05-5**
APPROVAL OF THE ADOPTION OF AN)
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT) **ORDER NO. 29882**
PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. § 252(i))

In this case the Commission is asked to approve the adoption by Cactus International, Inc. (Cactus) and Verizon Northwest Inc. (Verizon) of a previously approved Interconnection Agreement between Northwest Telephone, Inc. and Verizon. With this Order the Commission approves the 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 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 APPLICATION

The Application seeks to adopt an Interconnection Agreement previously approved by this Commission in Case No. VZN-T-04-5, Order No. 29470. Terms of the adoption were negotiated and mutually agreed to as stated in the Application. The various elements being adopted by Cactus deal with Reciprocal Compensation Traffic Termination, End Office and Tandem Rates, Transit Traffic Service Charges, Entrance Facility and Transport for Interconnection Charges, and various other interconnection and wholesale rates.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff has reviewed the Application and does not find any terms or conditions that it considers to be discriminatory or contrary to the public interest. Staff believes that the Application is 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 Agreement.

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 Application and the 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. However, approval of this Agreement does not negate the responsibility of either of the parties to this 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

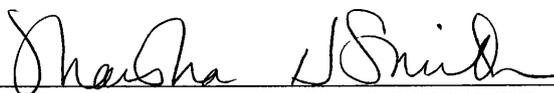
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the interconnection agreement of Verizon Northwest Inc. and Cactus International, Inc., Case No. VZN-T-05-5, is approved.

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 ^{3rd}
day of October 2005.



PAUL KJELLEANDER, PRESIDENT

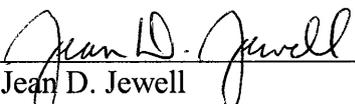


MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER



DENNIS S. HANSEN, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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