

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
VERIZON NORTHWEST INC. FOR) CASE NO. VZN-T-07-01
APPROVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION)
AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. §) ORDER NO. 30257
252(e).)**

In this case, the Commission is asked to approve a newly negotiated Interconnection Agreement. 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 APPLICATION

On February 13, 2007, Verizon Northwest Inc. submitted an Application for an interconnection agreement with Metropolitan Telecommunications of Idaho, Inc. dba MetTel. In this Application, the parties request that the Commission approve an agreement that includes terms and conditions for interconnection, unbundled network elements, collocation, and resale of telecommunications services.

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 FINDINGS

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. 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 Application should be approved. However, approval of this Application does not negate the responsibility of either of the parties 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

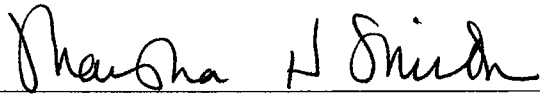
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Interconnection Agreement between Verizon Northwest Inc. and Metropolitan Telecommunications of Idaho, Inc. dba MetTel, Case No. VZN-T-07-01, is approved.

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.

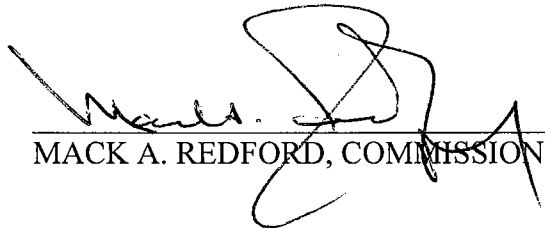
DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 27th
day of February 2007.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

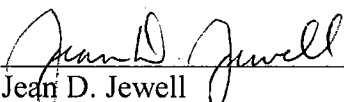


MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER



MACK A. REDFORD, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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