

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF QWEST CORPORATION DBA) CASE NO. QWE-T-17-01
CENTURYLINK QC FOR APPROVAL OF)
AN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT)
WITH COMCAST OF IDAHO, LLC)
PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. § 252(e).) ORDER NO. 33790
_____)

On May 18, 2017, Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC (“CenturyLink”) applied to the Commission for an Order approving their Interconnection Agreement with Comcast of Idaho, LLC (“Comcast”). With this Order, the Commission approves the 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 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

The Applicant asked the Commission to approve its proposed Interconnection Agreement, which adopts the format of the extant Interconnection Agreement between CenturyLink and Ionex Communications North, Inc. dba Birch Communications, which was approved by the Commission on April 9, 2015. *See* Order No. 33272. The Applicant states that the proposed Interconnection Agreement was voluntarily negotiated and establishes terms, conditions and rates for local interconnection and the exchange of local traffic.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff reviewed the Application and Interconnection Agreement and believes the terms and conditions are not discriminatory or contrary to the public interest. Staff also believes the Interconnection Agreement is consistent with the pro-competitive policies of this Commission, the Idaho Legislature, and the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. Accordingly, Staff recommended that the Commission approve the Interconnection 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. 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, Interconnection Agreement and Staff's recommendation, the Commission finds that the Interconnection Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity and does not discriminate. Therefore, the Commission finds that the Interconnection Agreement at issue should be approved. Our approval does not negate either party's responsibility to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity if they offer local exchange services, or to comply with *Idaho Code* §§ 62-604 and 62-606 if they provide other non-basic local telecommunications services as defined by *Idaho Code* § 62-603.

ORDER

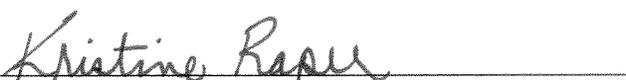
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Comcast Phone of Idaho, LLC, Case No. QWE-T-17-01, is approved.

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 20th
day of June 2017.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT



KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER



ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Diane M. Hanian
Commission Secretary

O:QWE-T-17-01_sc