

**BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )  
QWEST CORPORATION DBA CENTURYLINK QC ) CASE NO. QWE-T-04-01  
REQUESTING APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT )  
TO ITS INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT WITH )  
SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P. ) ORDER NO. 32647  
PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. § 252(e) )  
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In this case, the Commission is asked to approve the Application to amend an Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Sprint Communications Company L.P. With this Order, the Commission approves the Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement.

**BACKGROUND**

Under the provisions of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, interconnection agreements, including amendments thereto, 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 September 7, 2012, CenturyLink submitted an Application to amend its Interconnection Agreement with Sprint, previously approved by the Commission on January 13, 2004. *See* Order No. 29417. The Application states that this Amendment was reached through voluntary negotiations without resort to mediation. In the Amendment, the parties seek Commission authority to incorporate the Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services in

accordance with the ruling of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in Docket No. 01-92, *In the Matter of Developing a Unified Inter-carrier Compensation Regime*. The Agreement replaces and adds terms, conditions and rates as set forth in Attachment 1 and Exhibit A of the Application.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff reviewed the Application for approval of the amendment to the parties' Interconnection Agreement and does not find any terms or conditions that it considers to be discriminatory or contrary to the public interest. Staff believes that the amendment to 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 amendment to the Parties' Interconnection Agreement.

### **COMMISSION DECISION**

Under the terms of the Telecommunications Act, interconnection agreements, including amendments thereto, 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 Staff's recommendation, the Commission finds that the amendment to the parties' Interconnection Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity and does not discriminate. Therefore, the Commission finds that the Agreement, including amendments thereto, should be approved. Approval of an Interconnection Agreement does not negate the responsibility of either party to an 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 Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC and Sprint Communications Company L.P., Case No. QWE-T-04-01, 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 20<sup>th</sup> day of September 2012.

  
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PAUL KJELLANDER, COMMISSIONER

  
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MACK A. REDFORD, COMMISSIONER

  
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MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

  
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Jean D. Jewell  
Commission Secretary

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