

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF QWEST CORPORATION AND GRANITE) CASE NO. QWE-T-04-03
COMMUNICATIONS LLC FOR APPROVAL)
OF AN AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING)
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT) ORDER NO. 30426
PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. § 252(e))
_____)**

In this case the Commission is asked to approve an amendment to an existing and previously approved Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation (“Qwest”) and Granite Telecommunications, LLC (“Granite). With this Order, the Commission approves the amendment to the parties’ 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 CURRENT APPLICATION

On February 26, 2004, the Commission approved Qwest and Granite’s Joint Application for approval of an interconnection agreement. *See* Order No. 29433. On September 5, 2007, Qwest submitted an Application to amend that agreement. The Application seeks to amend the parties’ original Interconnection Agreement by incorporating the Triennial Review Order (“TRO”) and the Triennial Review Remand Order (“TRRO”). The Application also states

that the parties reached an agreement to amend their Interconnection Agreement through voluntary negotiations and without mediation or arbitration.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The 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 amendment is consistent with the pro-competitive policies of this Commission, Title 62 of the Idaho Code, and the federal Telecommunications Act. Accordingly, Staff recommends that the Commission approve Qwest's Application for approval of an amendment to the parties' existing 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 Qwest and Granite's proposed amendment to their Interconnection Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity and does not discriminate. Therefore, the Commission finds that the amendment should be approved. Approval of this Application does not negate the responsibility of either of the parties to these Agreements to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (pursuant to Commission Order No. 26665) 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 and Granite Telecommunications, LLC, is approved.

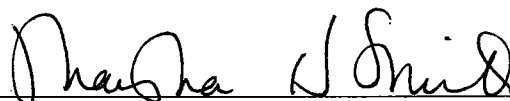
THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order (or in issues finally decided by this Order) may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for

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 13th day of September 2007.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

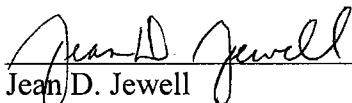


MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER



MACK A. REDFORD, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

O:QWE-T-04-03_np