

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT)
APPLICATION OF QWEST CORPORATION) CASE NO. QWE-T-04-14
AND COVISTA, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF)
AN AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING)
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT) ORDER NO. 30397
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. With this Order, the Commission approves the amendment to the existing 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

In this Joint Application, the parties seek the Commission’s approval of an amendment to their interconnection agreement, approved by the Commission on July 8, 2004. *See* Order No. 29544. With this filing, the original agreement is amended to incorporate the Triennial Review Order (TRO) and the Triennial Review Remand Order (TRRO).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Staff has reviewed the Joint 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 recommended that the Commission approve the foregoing amendment.

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.*

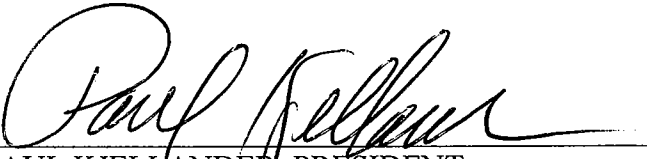
Based upon our review of the Joint Application and the Staff's recommendation, the Commission finds that the amendment to the parties' interconnection agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity and does not discriminate. Therefore, the Commission finds that the amendment should be approved. Approval of this Joint Application does not negate the responsibility of either party 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 amended interconnection agreement of Qwest Corporation and Covista, Inc., Case No. QWE-T-04-14, is approved.

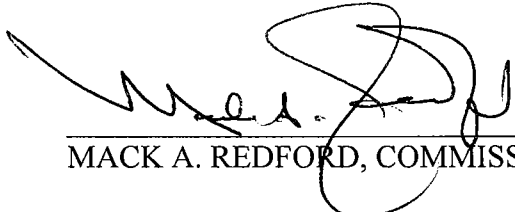
THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order (or in issues finally decided by this Order) may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. See *Idaho Code* §§ 61-626 and 62-619.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 30th
day of July 2007.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

Commissioner Smith Out of the Office
MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER



MACK A. REDFORD, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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