

**BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )  
QWEST CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL ) CASE NO. QWE-T-11-05  
OF ITS INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT )  
WITH UNITED STATES CELLULAR )  
CORPORATION PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. § ) ORDER NO. 32238  
252(e) )**

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In this case the Commission is asked to approve an Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation and United States Cellular Corporation. With this Order, the Commission approves 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 APPLICATION**

On April 14, 2011, the Commission received an Application from Qwest requesting approval of its Type 2 Wireless Interconnection Agreement with United States Cellular. The Agreement includes rates, ancillary services, and access to telephone numbers, as well as terms and conditions for two-way wireless interconnection between the parties.

In the Application, Qwest states that the Agreement was reached through voluntary negotiations and without resort to mediation or arbitration. Qwest believes that an expeditious approval of the Agreement is in the public interest.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff reviewed Qwest's Application and did not find any terms or conditions that it considers to be discriminatory or contrary to the public interest. Staff believes that the parties' Interconnection Agreement is consistent with the pro-competitive policies of this Commission, the Idaho Legislature, and the federal Telecommunications Act. Accordingly, Staff recommended that the Commission approve the 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 the 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 Agreement should be approved. Approval of the Interconnection Agreement does not negate the responsibility of either party 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 Qwest Corporation and United States Cellular Corporation, Case No. QWE-T-11-05, is approved.

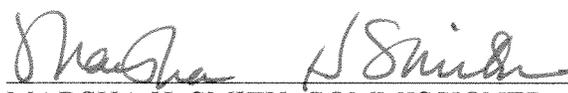
THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order (or in issues finally decided by this Order) may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for

reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. See *Idaho Code* §§ 61-626 and 62-619.

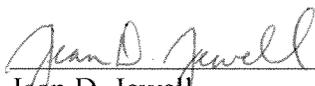
DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 2011.

  
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PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

  
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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

O:QWE-T-11-05\_np