

DECISION MEMORANDUM

**TO: COMMISSIONER KJELLANDER
COMMISSIONER SMITH
COMMISSIONER HANSEN
COMMISSION SECRETARY
COMMISSION STAFF
LEGAL
WORKING FILE**

FROM: DOUG COOLEY

DATE: AUGUST 15, 2003

**RE: STAFF REVIEW OF INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT
CASE NO. VZN-T-03-6.**

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 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 recently 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 provisions with Section 251(b) or (c).” Order No. 28427 at 11 (emphasis 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 APPLICATIONS

The Commission has been asked to approve one interconnection agreement. The item is discussed in greater detail below.

1. Verizon Northwest and MCI Worldcom Communications, Inc. (Case No. VZN-T-03-6). In this Application, the parties request that the Commission approve an interconnection agreement.

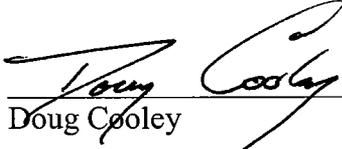
MCI Worldcom wishes to adopt in its entirety the terms of the ICG Telecom California agreement pursuant to the GTE/Bell Atlantic merger conditions in accordance with paragraph 31(a) of the Merger Conditions released by the FCC on June 16, 2000 in CC Docket No. 98-184. The parties have also attached a copy of the agreement that appears to have some rates that are more competitively priced.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Staff has reviewed the Application and did not find that any terms or conditions are discriminatory or contrary to the public interest. Staff believes that the agreement is consistent with the pro-competitive policies of this Commission, the Idaho Legislature, and the Federal Telecommunications Act. Accordingly, Staff believes that the agreement merits the Commission's approval.

COMMISSION DECISION

Does the Commission approve the Application for interconnection agreement?



Doug Cooley

udmemos/intcn dec memo 27