

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF QWEST CORPORATION D/B/A) CASE NO. QWE-T-19-03
CENTURYLINK QC'S APPLICATION FOR)
APPROVAL OF THE INTERCONNECTION)
AGREEMENT WITH TDS METROCOM,)
LLC FOR THE STATE OF IDAHO.)
PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. §252(e)) ORDER NO. 34406

On July 22, 2019, Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC (“CenturyLink”) applied to the Commission for approval of an Interconnection Agreement (“Agreement”) with TDS Metrocom, LLC (“Metrocom”) adopting the interconnection agreement between CenturyLink and Comcast Phone of Idaho, LLC (“Comcast”) for the State of Idaho. The Agreement establishes terms, conditions, and rates for local interconnection and the exchange of local traffic for the State of Idaho. With this Order, the Commission approves their Application.

BACKGROUND

Under 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 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 regulation 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.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff reviewed the Agreement and Application and indicated the Agreement is consistent with the FCC’s orders and pro-competitive policies of the Commission, the Idaho Legislature, and the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. Staff thus recommended that the Commission approve the Application.

COMMISSION DECISION

Under the Telecommunications Act, interconnection agreements must be submitted to the Commission for approval. 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(1). The Commission's review is limited. 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 its review of the record, the Commission finds that the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity and does not discriminate. The Commission thus finds that the Application should be approved. Our approval of the Application does not negate either party's responsibility to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity if they offer local exchange services, or to comply with *Idaho Code* §§ 62-604 and 62-606 if they provide other non-basic local telecommunications services as defined by *Idaho Code* § 62-603.

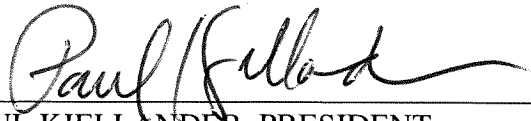
ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Agreement of CenturyLink and TDS Metrocom, Case No. QWE-T-19-03, adopting the interconnection agreement between CenturyLink and Comcast, is approved.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date upon this Order with regard to any matter decided in 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.

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DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this ^{12th}
day of August 2019.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT




KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER



ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Diane M. Hanian
Commission Secretary

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