

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Request for	)	
Approval of Negotiated Agreement	)	
Under the Telecommunications Act of	)	DOCKET NO. UT-970318
1996 Between	)	
	)	
NORTH COUNTY	)	ORDER APPROVING
COMMUNICATIONS CORP.,	)	NEGOTIATED FIRST AMENDED
	)	AGREEMENT ADDING
and	)	PROVISIONS FOR INTERNET
	)	SERVICE PROVIDER BOUND
QWEST CORPORATION, f/k/a U S	)	TRAFFIC
WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	)	
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

1 This matter comes before the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) for approval of a negotiated first amended agreement (Amended Agreement) under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Telecom Act). The Amended Agreement is between North County Communications, Corp. (North County), and Qwest Corporation (Qwest), f/k/a U S WEST Communications, Inc. The Commission approved an interconnection agreement between the parties on August 27, 1997. The Commission ordered that in the event the parties amended their agreement, the amended agreement would be deemed a new agreement under the Telecom Act and must be submitted to the Commission for approval. The parties filed a joint request for approval of a first amendment on March 8, 2002.

**MEMORANDUM**

2 The Amended Agreement between North County and Qwest was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting held on March 27, 2002, at its offices in Olympia, Washington. The Commission granted its approval of the Amended Agreement as negotiated and requested by the parties.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

3 The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfer of public service companies, including telecommunications companies.

4 Section 252(e)(1) of the Telecom Act requires parties to a negotiated agreement to  
submit the agreement to the Commission for approval. Section 252(e)(2)(A) states  
that the Commission may only reject an agreement (or any portion thereof) adopted  
by negotiation if it finds that:

- 5 (i) the agreement (or any portion thereof) discriminates against a  
telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or
- 6 (ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent  
with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

7 Qwest is engaged in the business of furnishing telecommunications services,  
including, but not limited to, basic local exchange service within the state of  
Washington.

8 North County is authorized to provide telecommunications services to the public in  
the state of Washington.

9 The Commission approved an interconnection agreement between the parties on  
August 27, 1997. The Commission ordered that in the event the parties amended  
their agreement, the amended agreement would be deemed a new agreement under  
the Telecom Act and must be submitted to the Commission for approval.

10 On March 8, 2002, the parties filed with the Commission a joint request for approval  
of a first amendment to the previously approved interconnection agreement, pursuant  
to the Telecom Act.

11 Qwest and North County voluntarily negotiated the entire amendment.

12 The Amended Agreement does not discriminate against any other  
telecommunications carrier.

13 The Amended Agreement will facilitate local exchange competition in the state of  
Washington by enabling North County to expand its presence in the local exchange  
market and increase customer choices for local exchange services.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

14 The Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter and all parties to this  
proceeding.

15 The Amended Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and  
necessity.

16 The Amended Agreement meets the requirements of Sections 251 and 252 of the  
Telecom Act, including Section 252(e).

17 The laws and regulations of the State of Washington and Commission orders govern the construction and interpretation of the Amended Agreement. The Amended Agreement is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

**O R D E R**

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

18 The Amended Agreement between North County Communications Corp., and Qwest Communications, f/k/a U S WEST Communications, Inc., which the parties filed on March 8, 2002, is approved and effective as of the date of this order.

19 In the event that the parties revise, modify, or amend the agreement approved in this order, the revised, modified, or amended agreement will be deemed to be a new negotiated agreement under the Telecom Act and must be submitted to the Commission for approval, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(1) and relevant provisions of state law, prior to taking effect.

20 The laws and regulations of the State of Washington and Commission orders govern the construction and interpretation of the Amended Agreement. The Amended Agreement is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner