

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-970361
1996 Between)	
)	
UNITED STATES CELLULAR)	ORDER APPROVING
OPERATING COMPANY OF)	NEGOTIATED SECOND
RICHLAND)	AMENDED AGREEMENT ADDING
)	PROVISIONS FOR RECIPROCAL
and)	COMPENSATION
)	
VERIZON NORTHWEST INC., f/k/a)	
GTE NORTHWEST INCORPORATED)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

1 This matter comes before the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) for approval of a negotiated second amendment to a wireless interconnection agreement (Amended Agreement) under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Telecom Act). The Amended Agreement is between United States Cellular Operating Company of Richland (US Cellular), and Verizon Northwest Inc., (Verizon), f/k/a GTE Northwest Incorporated. The Commission approved a wireless interconnection agreement between the parties on December 10, 1997, and a first amended agreement on January 24, 2001. 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 second amendment on July 24, 2002.

MEMORANDUM

2 The Amended Agreement between US Cellular and Verizon was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting held on August 14, 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 Verizon is engaged in the business of furnishing telecommunications services,
including, but not limited to, basic local exchange service within the state of
Washington.

8 US Cellular is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission as a commercial
mobile radio service provider.

9 The Commission approved a wireless interconnection agreement between the parties
on December 10, 1997, and a first amended agreement on January 24, 2001. 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 July 24, 2002, the parties filed with the Commission a joint request for approval
of a second amendment to the previously approved wireless interconnection
agreement, pursuant to the Telecom Act.

11 US Cellular and Verizon 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.

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 United States Cellular Operating Company of Richland, and Verizon Northwest Inc., f/k/a GTE Northwest Incorporated, which the parties filed on July 24, 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 14th day of August, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner