

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Request for Approval)	
of Negotiated Agreement Under the)	
Telecommunications Act of 1996 Between)	DOCKET NO. UT-970359
)	
CELLCO PARTNERSHIP, d/b/a)	ORDER APPROVING
VERIZON WIRELESS)	NEGOTIATED SECOND
)	AMENDED AGREEMENT
and)	ADDING PROVISIONS FOR
)	RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION
VERIZON NORTHWEST INC., f/k/a)	FOR INTERNET SERVICE
GTE NORTHWEST INCORPORATED)	PROVIDER-BOUND TRAFFIC
.....)	

BACKGROUND

1 This matter comes before the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) for approval of a negotiated second amended agreement (Amended Agreement) under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Telecom Act). The Amended Agreement is between Cellco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco), and Verizon Northwest Inc. (Verizon), f/k/a GTE Northwest Incorporated.

2 On April 6, 1998, US WEST New Vector Group, Inc., (New Vector), merged with and into AirTouch Communications, Inc., (AirTouch), with AirTouch being the surviving entity. New Vector marketed their products and services under the brand name AirTouch Cellular. On August 27, 2002, Cellco represented themselves as the successor-in-interest to the interconnection agreement between Verizon and New Vector, d/b/a AirTouch Cellular.

3 The Commission approved a wireless interconnection agreement between Verizon and New Vector on November 26, 1997, and a first amended agreement on September 25, 2002. 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. Cellco and Verizon filed a joint request for approval of a second amendment on October 10, 2002.

MEMORANDUM

4 The Amended Agreement between Cellco and Verizon was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting held on October 30, 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

- 5 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.
- 6 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:
- 7 (i) the agreement (or any portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or
 - 8 (ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.
- 9 Verizon is engaged in the business of furnishing telecommunications services, including, but not limited to, basic local exchange service within the state of Washington.
- 10 Cellco is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission as a commercial mobile radio service provider.
- 11 The Commission approved a wireless interconnection agreement between New Vector and Verizon on November 26, 1997, and a first amended agreement on September 25, 2002. 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.
- 12 On October 10, 2002, Verizon and Cellco, as successor-in-interest to New Vector's interconnection agreement, filed with the Commission a joint request for approval of a second amendment to the previously approved interconnection agreement, pursuant to the Telecom Act.
- 13 Cellco and Verizon voluntarily negotiated the entire amendment.
- 14 The Amended Agreement does not discriminate against any other telecommunications carrier.

15 The Amended Agreement will facilitate local exchange competition in the state of Washington.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

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

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

19 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.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

20 The Amended Agreement between Verizon Northwest Inc., f/k/a GTE Northwest Incorporated, and Cellco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless as successor-in-interest to the interconnection agreement of U S WEST New Vector Group, Inc., d/b/a AirTouch Cellular, which the parties filed on October 20, 2002, is approved and effective as of the date of this order.

21 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.

22 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 30th day of October, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner