

**First Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement
Between Qwest Corporation and
Level 3 Communications, LLC. for the State of Washington**

This amendment (“Amendment”) amends the Interconnection Agreement for the State of Washington between Qwest Corporation (“Qwest”) and Level 3 Communications, LLC (“Level 3”). Qwest and Level 3 may be referred to individually as “Party”, or collectively as the “Parties”.

Recitals

WHEREAS, Qwest and Level 3 entered into an interconnection agreement pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (“the Act”) which was approved by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (“Commission”) on or about February 5, 2003, as referenced in Docket No. UT-023042 (hereinafter the “Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) issued an Order, in WC Docket No. 03-171 effective October 18, 2004 (*Core Order*)¹; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to amend the Agreement to reflect the aforementioned order under the terms and conditions contained herein.

AGREEMENT

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the promises and covenants contained in this Amendment, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree to the language as follows in lieu of existing contract language in Section 7.3.6 of the Agreement:

1. Definitions

For purposes of this Amendment, the following definitions apply:

- 1.1. New Markets Rule – In the 2001 ISP Remand Order the FCC concluded that different interim intercarrier compensation rules should apply if two carriers were not exchanging traffic pursuant to an interconnection agreement prior to the adoption of the FCC’s ISP Remand Order.² This rule applied, for example, when a new carrier entered a market or an existing carrier expanded into a market it

¹ *Petition of Core Communications, Inc. For Forbearance Under 47 U.S.C. § 160(C) From Application of The ISP Remand Order*, 19 FCC Rcd. 20,179, 20,189 (2004).

² *In The Matter Of Implementation Of The Local Competition Provisions In The Telecommunications Act Of 1996, Intercarrier Compensation for ISP-Bound Traffic*, Order on Remand and Report and Order, 2001 WL 455869 (F.C.C.), 16 FCC Rcd. 9151 (2001).

previously had not served. In the Core Order, effective October 8, 2004, the FCC has removed this restriction.

- 1.2. Growth Caps - In the ISP Remand Order, the FCC also imposed a cap on total ISP-bound minutes for which a LEC could receive compensation equal to the total ISP-bound minutes for which the LEC was previously entitled to compensation, plus a 10 percent growth factor.

2.0 ISP-Bound Traffic

- 2.1 The Parties shall exchange ISP-bound traffic pursuant to the compensation mechanism set forth in the FCC *Core Order*.
- 2.2 Compensation for ISP-bound traffic will be at the rate of \$0.0007 per minute of use without limitation as to the number of MOU ("minutes of use") or whether the MOU are generated in "new markets" as that term has been defined by the FCC.
- 2.3 Notwithstanding any other term or provision of the Agreement, and for the removal of any doubt, it is the Parties' intention to eliminate minute of use growth caps and new market restrictions, as applicable, for intercarrier compensation between the Parties for ISP-bound traffic.

3.0 Effective Date

3. This Amendment shall be deemed effective upon approval by the Commission; however Qwest will adopt the rate-affecting provisions for ISP-bound traffic as of October 8, 2004, the effective date of the Order.

This Amendment constitutes the full and entire understanding and agreement between the Parties with regard to the subject of this Amendment and supersedes any prior understandings, agreements, amendments or representations by or between the Parties, written or oral, to the extent they relate in any way to the subject of this Amendment. The Parties intending to be legally bound have executed this Amendment as of the dates set forth below, in multiple counterparts, each of which is deemed an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.

Level 3 Communications, LLC

Signature: 

Printed Name: Andrea L. Gavalas

Date: 3/1/06

Title: VP

Qwest Corporation

Signature: 

Printed Name: LT Christensen

Date: 3/3/06

Title: Director