

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-960326
1996 Between)	
)	ORDER APPROVING NEGOTIATED
TCG SEATTLE)	FOURTH AND FIFTH
)	AMENDMENTS ADDING
and)	PROVISIONS FOR COLLOCATION
)	CANCELLATION AND
QWEST CORPORATION, f/k/a U S)	COLLOCATION DECOMMISSION
WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

1 This matter comes before the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) for approval of negotiated fourth and fifth amendments to an agreement (Amended Agreement) under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Telecom Act). The Amended Agreement is between TCG Seattle (TCG), and Qwest Corporation (Qwest), f/k/a U S WEST Communications, Inc. The Commission approved an interconnection agreement between the parties on January 29, 1997, a first amended agreement on December 13, 2000, a second amended agreement on August 22, 2001, and a third amended agreement on November 16, 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 the fourth and fifth amendments on February 15, 2002.

MEMORANDUM

2 The Amended Agreement between TCG and Qwest was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting held on March 13, 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 TCG 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
January 29, 1997, a first amended agreement on December 13, 2000, a second
amended agreement on August 22, 2001, and a third amended agreement on
November 16, 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 February 15, 2002, the parties filed with the Commission a joint request for
approval of the fourth and fifth amendments to the previously approved
interconnection agreement, pursuant to the Telecom Act.

11 TCG and Qwest 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 TCG 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.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 18 The Amended Agreement between TCG Seattle and Qwest Corporation, f/k/a U S WEST Communications, Inc., which the parties filed on October 25, 2001, 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 13th day of March, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner