

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET NO. UT-960359
)	
RAINIER CONNECT, INC., f/k/a)	
RAINIER CABLE, INC.,)	
)	
and)	
)	
QWEST CORPORATION f/k/a U S)	
WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,)	ORDER APPROVING
)	NEGOTIATED FIFTH AMENDED
For Approval of Negotiated)	AGREEMENT ADDING
Agreement Under the)	PROVISIONS FOR UNBUNDLED
Telecommunications Act of 1996)	DARK FIBER
.....)	

BACKGROUND

1 This matter comes before the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) for approval of a negotiated third amended agreement (Amended Agreement) under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Telecom Act). The Amended Agreement is between Rainier Connect, Inc., f/k/a Rainier Cable, Inc., (Rainier) and Qwest Corporation f/k/a U S WEST Communications, Inc., (Qwest). The Commission approved an interconnection agreement between the parties on June 25, 1997, a first amended agreement on August 27, 1997, a second amended agreement on September 23, 1997, a third amended agreement on October 28, 1998, and a fourth amended agreement on December 23, 1998. 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 fifth amendment on June 11, 2003.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 2 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate public service companies, including telecommunications companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 80.04 RCW and Chapter 80.36 RCW.*
- 3 (2) 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:
- 4 (i) the agreement (or any portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or
- 5 (ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.
- 6 (3) Qwest is engaged in the business of furnishing telecommunications services including, but not limited to, basic local exchange service within the state of Washington.
- 7 (4) Rainier is authorized to provide telecommunications services to the public in the state of Washington.
- 8 (5) The Commission approved an interconnection agreement between the parties on June 25, 1997, a first amended agreement on August 27, 1997, a second amended agreement on September 23, 1997, a third amended agreement on October 28, 1998, and a fourth amended agreement on December 23, 1998. 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.

- 9 (6) On June 11, 2003, the parties filed with the Commission a joint request for approval of a fifth amendment to the previously approved interconnection agreement, pursuant to the Telecom Act.
- 10 (7) The Amended Agreement between Rainier and Qwest was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on July 9, 2003.
- 11 (8) Rainier and Qwest voluntarily negotiated the entire amendment.
- 12 (9) The Amended Agreement does not discriminate against any other telecommunications carrier.
- 13 (10) The Amended Agreement will facilitate local exchange competition in the state of Washington.
- 14 (11) The Amended Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.
- 15 (12) The Amended Agreement meets the requirements of Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecom Act, including Section 252(e).
- 16 (13) 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.
- 17 (14) After examination of the proposed Amended Agreement filed by Rainier and Qwest on June 11, 2003, and giving consideration to all relevant

matters, the Commission finds the proposed Amended Agreement should be approved.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 18 (1) The Amended Agreement between Rainier Connect, Inc., f/k/a Rainier Cable, Inc., and Qwest Corporation f/k/a U S WEST Communications, Inc., which the parties filed on June 11, 2003, is approved and effective as of the date of this Order.
- 19 (2) 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 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 (3) 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.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 9th day of July, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary