

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

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET NO. UT-970318
)	
NORTH COUNTY)	
COMMUNICATIONS)	
CORPORATION)	
)	
and)	
)	
QWEST CORPORATION, f/k/a U S)	
WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)	ORDER APPROVING
)	NEGOTIATED THIRD AMENDED
For Approval of Negotiated)	AGREEMENT ADDING
Agreement Under the)	PROVISIONS FOR TRANSIT
Telecommunications Act of 1996)	RECORDS
.....)	

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 North County Communications Corporation (North County), and Qwest Corporation (Qwest), f/k/a U S WEST Communications, Inc. The Commission approved an interconnection agreement between the parties on August 24, 1997, a first amended agreement on March 27, 2002, and a second amended agreement on December 11, 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. The parties filed a joint request for approval of a third amendment on September 12, 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) North County 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 August 27, 1997, a first amended agreement on March 27, 2002,
and a second amended agreement on December 11, 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.

- 9 (6) On September 12, 2003, the parties filed with the Commission a joint request for approval of a third amendment to the previously approved interconnection agreement, pursuant to the Telecom Act.
- 10 (7) The Amended Agreement between North County and Qwest was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 8, 2003.
- 11 (8) North County 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 Qwest and North County on September 12, 2003, and giving consideration to all relevant matters, the Commission finds the proposed Amended Agreement should be approved.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 18 (1) The Amended Agreement between North County Communications Corporation and Qwest Corporation, f/k/a U S WEST Communications, Inc., which the parties filed on September 12, 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 8th day of October, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary