

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

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET NO. UT-013086
)	
TEL WEST COMMUNICATIONS,)	
LLC)	
)	
and)	
)	ORDER APPROVING
QWEST CORPORATION)	NEGOTIATED THIRD AMENDED
)	AGREEMENT ADDING
For Approval of Negotiated)	PROVISIONS FOR
Agreement Under the)	PERFORMANCE ASSURANCE
Telecommunications Act of 1996)	PLAN
.....)	

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 Tel West Communications, LLC (Tel West), and Qwest Corporation (Qwest). The Commission approved an interconnection agreement between the parties on October 31, 2001, a first amended agreement on June 14, 2002, and a second amended agreement on January 22, 2003. 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 February 10, 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) Tel West 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 October 31, 2001, a first amended agreement on June 14, 2002,
and a second amended agreement on January 22, 2003. 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 February 10, 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 Tel West and Qwest was brought
before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 28,
2003.
- 11 (8) Tel West 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 Tel West
and Qwest on February 10, 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 Tel West Communications Service, LLC, and Qwest Corporation, which the parties filed on February 10, 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.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 28th day of February, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner