

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

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET NO. UT-980312
)	
COVAD COMMUNICATIONS)	
COMPANY)	
)	
and)	
)	
QWEST CORPORATION f/k/a U S)	ORDER APPROVING
WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)	NEGOTIATED SIXTH AMENDED
)	AGREEMENT ADDING
For Approval of Negotiated)	PROVISIONS FOR A
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 sixth amended agreement (Amended Agreement) under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Telecom Act). The Amended Agreement is between Covad Communications Company (Covad), and QWEST Corporation f/k/a U S WEST Communications, Inc., (QWEST). The Commission approved an interconnection agreement between the parties on April 22, 1998, a first amended agreement on September 30, 1998, a second amended agreement on March 10, 1999, a third amended agreement on March 28, 2001, a fourth amended agreement on September 25, 2002, and a fifth amended agreement on October 9, 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 sixth amendment on November 26, 2002.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

2 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 80.01.04; Chapter 80.04 RCW and Chapter*
3 *80.36 RCW.*

3 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 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 Covad is authorized to provide telecommunications services to the public in the
state of Washington.

8 The Commission approved an interconnection agreement between the parties on
April 22, 1998, a first amended agreement on September 30, 1998, a second
amended agreement on March 10, 1999, a third amended agreement on
March 28, 2001, a fourth amended agreement on September 25, 2002, and a fifth
amended agreement on October 9, 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 On November 26, 2002, the parties filed with the Commission a joint request for approval of a sixth amendment to the previously approved interconnection agreement, pursuant to the Telecom Act.

10 The Amended Agreement between Covad and Qwest was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 31, 2001.

11 Covad 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.

14 The Amended Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

15 The Amended Agreement meets the requirements of Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecom Act, including Section 252(e).

16 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 After examination of the proposed Amended Agreement filed by Qwest and Covad on November 26, 2002, and giving consideration to all relevant matters, the Commission finds the proposed Amended Agreement should be approved.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 18 The Amended Agreement between Covad Communications Company and QWEST Corporation f/k/a U S WEST Communications, Inc., which the parties filed on November 26, 2002, 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 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 31st day of December, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner