

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

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET NO. UT-033029
)	
ERNEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,)	ORDER NO. 01
)	
and)	
)	
VERIZON NORTHWEST INC.,)	
)	ORDER APPROVING
For Approval of Negotiated Agreement)	NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT FOR
Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996)	INTERCONNECTION AND
.....)	RESALE OF SERVICES
)	
)	

BACKGROUND

1 This matter comes before the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) for approval of a negotiated agreement for interconnection and the resale of specified exchange services (Agreement) under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Telecom Act). The Agreement is between Ernest Communications, Inc., (Ernest) and Verizon Northwest Inc., (Verizon). The parties filed a joint request for approval of the Agreement on July 2, 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 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) Verizon 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) Ernest is authorized to provide telecommunications services to the public in the state of
 Washington.
- 8 (5) On July 2, 2003, the parties filed with the Commission a joint request for approval of a
 negotiated interconnection and resale of services agreement, pursuant to the Telecom
 Act.
- 9 (6) Ernest and Verizon voluntarily negotiated the entire Agreement.
- 10 (7) The agreement between Ernest and Verizon was brought before the Commission at its
 regularly scheduled meeting on July 31, 2003.
- 11 (8) The Agreement does not discriminate against any other telecommunications carrier.
- 12 (9) The Agreement will facilitate local exchange competition in the state of Washington.
- 13 (10) The Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.
- 14 (11) The Agreement meets the requirements of Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecom Act,
 including Section 252(e).
- 15 (12) The laws and regulations of the State of Washington and Commission Orders govern
 the construction and interpretation of the Agreement. The Agreement is subject to the
 jurisdiction of the Commission.

- 16 (13) After examination of the proposed Agreement filed by Ernest and Verizon on July 2, 2003, and giving consideration to all relevant matters, the Commission finds the proposed Agreement should be approved.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 17 (1) The Agreement for interconnection and resale of services between Ernest Communications, Inc., and Verizon Northwest Inc., which the parties filed on July 2, 2003, is approved and effective as of the date of this Order.
- 18 (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.
- 19 (3) The laws and regulations of the State of Washington and Commission orders govern the construction and interpretation of the Agreement. The 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 31st day of July, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary