

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

In the Matter of the Request of	)	DOCKET NO. UT-033061
	)	
ERNEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	)	ORDER NO. 01
	)	
and	)	
	)	
UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY	)	
OF THE NORTHWEST	)	
	)	ORDER APPROVING
For Approval of Negotiated	)	NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT
Agreement Under the	)	FOR INTERCONNECTION
Telecommunications Act of 1996	)	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 United Telephone Company of the Northwest (Sprint). The parties filed a joint request for approval of the Agreement on December 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 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) Sprint 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 December 12, 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 Sprint voluntarily negotiated the entire Agreement.
- 10 (7) The agreement between Ernest and Sprint was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 28, 2004.
- 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 Sprint and Ernest on December 12, 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 United Telephone Company of the Northwest, which the parties filed on December 12, 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 28th day of January, 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary