

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Request for)	
Approval of Negotiated Agreement)	
Under the Telecommunications Act of)	DOCKET NO. UT-980300
1996 Between)	
)	
VOICESTREAM WIRELESS)	ORDER APPROVING
CORPORATION, f/k/a WESTERN PCS)	NEGOTIATED FIRST AMENDED
BTA I CORPORATION)	AGREEMENT ADDING
)	PROVISIONS FOR INTERNET
and)	SERVICE PROVIDER BOUND
)	TRAFFIC
VERIZON NORTHWEST INC., f/k/a)	
GTE NORTHWEST INCORPORATED)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

1 This matter comes before the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) for approval of a negotiated first amended agreement (Amended Agreement) under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Telecom Act). The Amended Agreement is between VoiceStream Wireless Corporation (VoiceStream), f/k/a Western PCS BTA I Corporation and Verizon Northwest Inc. (Verizon), f/k/a GTE Northwest Incorporated. The Commission approved a wireless interconnection agreement between the parties on March 25, 1998. 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 first amendment on December 11, 2001.

MEMORANDUM

2 The Amended Agreement between VoiceStream and Verizon was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting held on January 30, 2002, at its offices in Olympia, Washington. The Commission granted its approval of the Amended Agreement as negotiated and requested by the parties.

FINDINGS OF FACT

3 The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfer of public service companies, including telecommunications companies.

4 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:

- 5 (i) the agreement (or any portion thereof) discriminates against a
telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or
- 6 (ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent
with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

7 Verizon is engaged in the business of furnishing telecommunications services,
including, but not limited to, basic local exchange service within the state of
Washington.

8 VoiceStream is licensed to by the Federal Communications Commission as a
commercial mobile radio service provider.

9 The Commission approved a wireless interconnection agreement between the parties
on March 25, 1998. 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.

10 On December 11, 2001, the parties filed with the Commission a joint request for
approval of a first amendment to the previously approved interconnection agreement
for paging connection, pursuant to the Telecom Act.

11 VoiceStream and Verizon 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.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

14 The Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter and all parties to this
proceeding.

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

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

17 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 and the courts of Washington state.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

18 The Amended Agreement between VoiceStream Wireless Corporation., f/k/a Western PCS BTA I Corporation, and Verizon Northwest Inc., f/k/a GTE Northwest Incorporated, which the parties filed on December 11, 2001, 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 negotiated 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 and the courts of Washington state.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 30th day of January, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner