

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

ARB 657

In the Matter of)
)
MARATHON COMMUNICATIONS, INC.) STAFF COMMENTS
and QWEST CORPORATION)
)
Interconnection Agreement Submitted for)
Commission Approval Pursuant to Section)
252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.)

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE AGREEMENT

On March 4, 2005, Marathon Communications, Inc. and Qwest Corporation (Qwest) filed an interconnection agreement with the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission). The parties seek approval of this agreement under Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Commission provided notice by posting an electronic copy of the agreement on the World Wide Web, at: <http://www.puc.state.or.us/caragmnt/>. The Commission Staff (Staff) offers these comments.

Under the Act, the Commission must approve or reject an agreement reached through voluntary negotiation within 90 days of filing. The Commission may reject an agreement only if it finds that:

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

Staff recommends approval of the agreement. Staff concludes that the agreement does not appear to discriminate against telecommunications carriers who are not parties to the agreement and does not appear to be inconsistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

Dated at Salem, Oregon this 24th day of March, 2005.

David Booth
Manager, Competitive Issues
Telecommunications Division