

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

ARB 1 (5)

In the Matter of)	
)	
MCI WORLDCOM and QWEST)	STAFF COMMENTS
CORPORATION,)	
)	
Fifth Amendments to the Interconnection)	
Agreement Between Submitted for Commission)	
Approval Pursuant to Section 252(e) of the)	
Telecommunications Act of 1996.)	

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE AMENDMENT

On June 10, 2002, MCI WorldCom and Qwest Corporation filed a fifth amendment to the interconnection agreement previously approved by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission). The parties seek approval of these current amendment 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 is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

Staff recommends approval of the amendment. Staff concludes that the amendment to the previously approved 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.

Date at Salem, this 1sst day of July, 2002.

Celeste Hari
Telecommunications Analyst