

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**OF OREGON**

ARB 496(3&4)

In the Matter of )  
 )  
VCI COMPANY and QWEST ) **STAFF COMMENTS**  
CORPORATION, )  
 )  
Third and Fourth Amendments to the )  
Interconnection Submitted for Commission )  
Approval Pursuant to Section 252(e) of the )  
Telecommunications Act of 1996. )

**RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE AMENDMENTS**

On December 13, 2005, VCI Company and Qwest Corporation (Qwest) filed the third and fourth amendments to the interconnection agreement previously approved by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission). The parties seek approval of the amendments under Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Commission provided notice by posting an electronic copy of the amendment 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 notes that an interconnection agreement or amendment thereto has no effect or force until approved by a state Commission. *See* 47 U.S.C. Sections 252 (a) and (e). Accordingly, Staff points out that the effective date of these filings will be the date the Commission signs an order approving them, and that any provision stating that the parties' agreement is effective prior to that date is not enforceable.

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

Dated at Salem, Oregon this 30<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2005.

---

**Celeste Hari**  
Telecommunications Analyst  
Competitive Issues  
Telecommunications Division