

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

ARB 708(1 &2)

In the Matter of)	
)	
SILVER STAR TELECOM LLC)	PUC STAFF'S COMMENTS
and VERIZON NORTHWEST INC.)	
)	
First and Second Amendments to the)	
Interconnection Agreement Previously)	
Submitted for Commission Approval Pursuant)	
to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications)	
Act of 1996.)	

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE AMENDMENTS

On November 15, 2005, Silver Star Telecom LLC and Verizon Northwest Inc. filed the first and second 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 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 or amendment thereto 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 concludes that the amendments do not appear to discriminate against telecommunications carriers who are not parties to them and does not appear to be inconsistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. Staff recommends approval of the amendments.

Dated at Salem, Oregon this 6th day of December, 2005.

Celeste Hari
Telecommunications Analyst
Competitive Issues
Telecommunications Division