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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

ARB 299

In the Matter of the Petition of PILGRIM)	
TELEPHONE, INC., for Arbitration of)	
Interconnection Rates, Terms, and Conditions)	ORDER
with VERIZON NORTHWEST INCORPORATED)	
pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Communications)	
Act of 1934 and OAR 860-016-0030.)	

DISPOSITION: REQUEST DEEMED WITHDRAWN; DOCKET CLOSED

Pilgrim Telephone, Inc. (Pilgrim) filed this petition for arbitration with Verizon Northwest Inc. on December 1, 2000. The matter was set for hearing on March 6, 2001, but at the request of the parties the hearing was canceled. The parties represented that they were working toward resolution of their dispute and asked for a 30-day extension, which was granted.

In March, April, May, June, July, and August, 2001, the parties held telephone conferences and asked for further 30-day extensions to continue to work through their differences. These extensions were granted. In September the parties asked that the case be temporarily suspended. That request was granted. The Arbitrator asked parties to inform her before December 31, 2001, whether they wished to proceed with the arbitration and notified them that if she received no word from them by that date, she would treat the arbitration as withdrawn and would close the record.

On December 12, 2001, Pilgrim wrote that the parties wished to continue the suspension period and asked that the matter not be withdrawn. That request was granted.

On July 10, 2002, having heard nothing from the parties for six months, the Arbitrator sent a memorandum to the parties asking whether they wished this docket to remain open. She asked the parties to respond by close of business on August 9, 2002. If the parties did not respond, the Arbitrator noted that she would treat silence as a request to withdraw the arbitration and would close the docket. The parties did not respond. Therefore, this arbitration should be considered withdrawn and the docket closed.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that Pilgrim Telephone, Inc.'s petition for arbitration is withdrawn and the docket is closed.

Made, entered, and effective _____.

Roy Hemmingway
Chairman

Lee Beyer
Commissioner

Joan H. Smith
Commissioner

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order pursuant to ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-014-0095. A copy of any such request must also be served on each party to the proceeding as provided by OAR 860-013-0070(2). A party may appeal this order to a court pursuant to applicable law.