

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

ARB 702

In the Matter of)	
)	
HELIX TELEPHONE CO. and UNITED)	ORDER
STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION,)	
)	
Negotiated Interconnection Agreement,)	
Submitted for Commission Approval Pursuant)	
to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications)	
Act of 1996.)	
)	

DISPOSITION: AGREEMENT APPROVED

On September 21, 2005, Helix Telephone Co. and United States Cellular Corporation filed a negotiated 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/>. Only the Commission Staff (Staff) filed 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.

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, the effective date of these filings will be the date the Commission signs an order approving them, and any provision stating that the parties' agreement or amendment is effective prior to that date is not enforceable.

Staff recommended approval of the agreement. Staff also cautions all parties to interconnection agreements to file agreements and amendments immediately after final signature and within a reasonable time period relative to the stated effective date. Staff concluded that the agreement does not appear to discriminate against telecommunications

