

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

ARB 645(1)

In the Matter)	
)	
GLOBAL CONNECTION INC. OF)	
AMERICA and QWEST)	
CORPORATION)	ORDER
)	
First Amendment to the Interconnection)	
Agreement, Submitted for Commission)	
Approval Pursuant to Section 252(e) of)	
the Telecommunications Act of 1996.)	

DISPOSITION: AMENDMENT APPROVED

On January 10, 2005, Global Connection Inc. of America and Qwest Corporation filed a first amendment to the interconnection agreement previously acknowledged by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission), recognizing the adoption of ARB 527 terms. The parties seek approval of the amendment 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/>. 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.

The amendment removes all aspects of UNE-P, mass market switching and shared transport from the underlying agreement. The underlying agreement, ARB 645, was adopted on January 3, 2005. Staff concludes that the FCC Order refers specifically to agreements in place prior to June 15, 2004, and therefore, does not apply in this case.¹

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 this filing will be the date the Commission signs an order approving it, and any provision stating that the parties' agreement is effective prior to that date is not enforceable.

Staff recommended approval of the amendment. Staff concluded that the amendment to the previously acknowledged 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.

OPINION

The Commission adopts Staff's recommendation and concludes that there is no basis under the Act to reject the amendment to the previously acknowledged agreement. No participant in the proceeding has requested that the amendment be rejected or has presented any reason for rejection. Accordingly, the amendment should be approved.

CONCLUSIONS

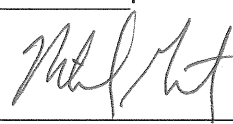
1. There is no basis for finding that the amendment to the previously acknowledged agreement discriminates against any telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement.
2. There is no basis for finding that implementation of the amended agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.
3. The amendment should be approved.

¹ FCC Order No. 04-179 states "Specifically, we conclude that the appropriate interim approach here is to require incumbent LECs to continue providing unbundled access to switching, enterprise market loops, ad dedicated transport under the same rates, terms, and conditions that applied under their interconnection agreements as of June 15, 2004. These rates, terms, and conditions shall remain in place until the earlier of the effective date of final unbundling rules promulgated by the Commission or six months after the Federal Register publication of the Order, except to the extent that they are or have been superseded by (1) voluntary negotiated agreements, (2) an intervening Commission order affecting specific unbundling obligations (e.g. an order addressing a pending petition for reconsideration), or (3) (with respect to rates only) a state public utility commission order raising the rates for network elements."

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that the amendment to the previously acknowledged agreement between Global Connection Inc. of America and Qwest Corporation is approved.

Made, entered, and effective MAR 14 2005



Michael Grant
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Administrative Hearings Division



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.