

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

ARB 96(19)

In the Matter of)	
)	
COVAD COMMUNICATIONS)	ORDER
COMPANY and QWEST CORPORATION)	
)	
Nineteenth Amendment to Interconnection)	
Agreement, Submitted for Commission)	
Approval Pursuant to Section 252(e) of the)	
Telecommunications Act of 1996.)	

DISPOSITION: AMENDMENT APPROVED

On March 22 , 2005, Covad Communications Company and Qwest Corporation filed a nineteenth amendment¹ to the interconnection agreement and subsequent amendments previously approved by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) in Orders No. 99-248, 01-1070, 02-188, 02-813, 03-185, 03-268, 03-331, 03-373, 03-659, 04-119, 04-138, 04-277, 04-402, 04-441, 04-584, 04-725, and 05-127. The parties seek approval of the current 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.

¹ Qwest included a letter and attachment with the ARB 96(19) filing. The attachment is captioned "Agreement Filing Under Protest and With Reservations of Rights." These documents inform the Commission that Qwest is filing the Qwest Platform Plus (QPP) portion of the ARB 96(19) amendment under protest.

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' amendment is effective prior to that date is not enforceable.

This amendment is nearly identical to recent filing amending the ARB 6 interconnection agreement between Qwest and MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC (MCI). In that proceeding, the Commission determined that the QPP agreement was an interconnection agreement subject to filing obligations under Section 252 of the Act. *See* Order No. 04-661. The Commission subsequently approved both the QPP agreement and the Batch Hot Cut Amendment, which the parties had filed simultaneously. *See* Order No. 05-103. Because the present amendment in this docket is virtually the same as that approved in ARB 6, Staff recommends approval of the ARB 96(19) amendment.

OPINION

The Commission concludes that the amendment to the 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. Accordingly, the amendment should be approved.

CONCLUSIONS

1. There is no basis for finding that the amendment to the previously approved agreement discriminates against any telecommunications carrier who is 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.

