

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

ARB 533(1)

In the Matter of)
)
 MCI WORLDCOM COMMUNICATIONS)
 INC. (AS SUCCESSOR TO RHYTHMS)
 LINKS, INC.) and VERIZON NORTHWEST)
 INC.,)
)
 First Amendment to the Interconnection)
 Agreement, Submitted for Commission)
 Approval Pursuant to Section 252(e) of)
 the Telecommunications Act of 1996.)

ORDER

DISPOSITION: AMENDMENT APPROVED

On April 25, 2005, MCI Worldcom Communications Inc. (as Successor to Rhythms Links, Inc.) (MCI) and Verizon Northwest Inc. (Verizon) filed a first amendment to the interconnection agreement previously approved by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) by Order No. 04-241. 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 agreement and 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 thereof 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 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.

Staff noted that the attachment to the amendment included a list of amendments filed with different states. Amendment 1 to ARB 533 has no relationship to amendments filed with any other state.

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

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that the amendment to the previously approved agreement between MCI Worldcom Communications Inc. (as Successor to Rhythms Links, Inc.) and Verizon Northwest Inc. is approved.

Made, entered, and effective JUL 11 2005



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Grant", is written over a horizontal line.

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.