

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

ARB 874

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
GRANITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, LLC,	)	
and UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY OF	)	ORDER
THE NORTHWEST, d/b/a EMBARQ,	)	
	)	
Negotiated Interconnection Agreement,	)	
Submitted for Commission Approval Pursuant	)	
to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications	)	
Act of 1996.	)	

**DISPOSITION:        AGREEMENT APPROVED**

On December 2, 2008, Granite Telecommunications, LLC, and United Telephone Company of the Northwest, d/b/a Embarq, filed a negotiated interconnection agreement with the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission). The parties then filed a replacement agreement on February 4, 2009. 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 its website at <http://apps.puc.state.or.us/edockets/caragmnt.asp>. 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.

Although the Commission generally approves agreements reached through voluntary negotiation at its regular public meetings, the 90-day time period for review of this agreement expires prior to the next scheduled public meeting on March 10, 2009. Accordingly, Staff requests that a separate order be written approving the agreement.

Staff recommends approval of the agreement, concludes that 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.

**OPINION**

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

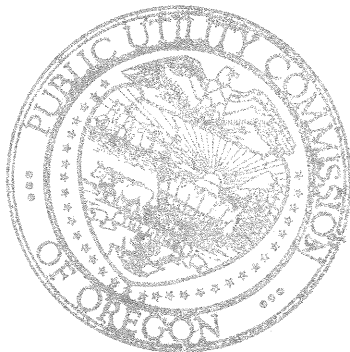
**CONCLUSIONS**

1. There is no basis for finding that the agreement discriminates against any telecommunications carriers who are not parties to the agreement.
2. There is no basis for finding that implementation of the agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.
3. The agreement should be approved.

**ORDER**

IT IS ORDERED that the agreement between Granite Telecommunications, LLC, and United Telephone Company of the Northwest, d/b/a Embarq is approved.

Made, entered, and effective FEB 27 2009.



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.