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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

ARB 183

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|------------------------------------------------|---|-------|
| In the Matter of the Interconnection Agreement |) | |
| between FirstWorld Communications, Inc., and |) | |
| US WEST Communications, Inc., Submitted for |) | ORDER |
| Commission Approval Pursuant to Section 252(e) |) | |
| of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. |) | |

DISPOSITION: AGREEMENT APPROVED

On November 23, 1999, FirstWorld Communications, Inc., and US WEST Communications, Inc., filed an Interconnection Agreement with the Commission. The parties seek approval of the agreement under Section 252(e)(2) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

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 Commission provided notice of the request for approval and an opportunity to comment to a list of persons who have participated in arbitrations under the Act. Comments were filed by the PUC Staff.

Staff concluded 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. While Staff recommended approval of the agreement, Staff noted that it was not in agreement with a representation made by US WEST regarding collocation of switching equipment. Staff's comments are attached as Appendix A and incorporated by reference.

OPINION

The Commission has reviewed the agreement and the comments. We conclude 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. We conclude that the agreement should be approved.

Although we approve the agreement, we do not consider U S WEST's representation to be enforceable. Without further representations from FirstWorld, we do not find that this representation was freely negotiated by the parties. With these understandings, we approve the agreement.

CONCLUSIONS

1. There is no basis for finding that the agreement discriminates against any telecommunications carrier not a party 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 FirstWorld Communications, Inc., and U S WEST Communications, Inc., is approved.

Made, entered, and effective _____.

Ron Eachus
Chairman

Roger Hamilton
Commissioner

Joan H. Smith
Commissioner

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.