

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

DOCKET NO. 00B-601T

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF LEVEL 3 COMMUNICATIONS LLC FOR
ARBITRATION PURSUANT § 252(B) OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF
1996 TO ESTABLISH AN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT WITH QWEST
COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

**DECISION GRANTING JOINT MOTION FOR
APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO THE
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

Mailed Date: April 9, 2003
Adopted Date: April 9, 2003

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. This matter comes before the Commission on the joint motion of Qwest Corporation, formerly known as U S WEST Communications, Inc. (Qwest), and Level 3 Communications (Level 3) for approval of an Amendment to their Interconnection Agreement (Agreement). The Agreement between Qwest and Level 3 for the provision of local exchange services was approved by the Commission in Decision No. C01-1178, issued November 19, 2001 and subsequently amended.

2. The parties filed this Amendment on February 28, 2003. The parties have agreed to amend the Agreement by adding terms and conditions for data exchange relating to intraLATA switched access billing, and terms and conditions for Internet Service Provider (ISP) bound traffic to reflect Federal Communications Commission Order 01-131, in CC Docket 99-68, *Intercarrier Compensation for ISP-Bound Traffic*, with a change of law provision.

3. Under the terms of the 47 U.S.C. § 252(i) “pick and choose” provision of the Act, Level 3 may at some future date opt into the rates, terms, and conditions of Commission approved and currently effective agreements, amendments, Statements of Generally Available Terms and Conditions, or tariffs:

[a] local exchange carrier shall make available any interconnection, service, or network element provided under an agreement approved under this section to which it is a party to any other requesting telecommunications carrier upon the same terms and conditions as those provided in the agreement.

4. Section 47 U.S.C. § 251 *et seq.* of the Act requires that the Commission review and approve or reject interconnection agreements involving incumbent local exchange carriers like Qwest. To comply with the Act, rates in negotiated agreements must be just and reasonable, nondiscriminatory, and based on the cost of providing the interconnection or network element. 47 U.S.C. § 252(e). In reviewing agreements (or portions thereof) the Commission, generally, is guided by 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2), requiring that interconnection agreements not discriminate against non-parties and be consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

5. The Commission has not previously approved all the amended terms and conditions proposed here. However, we find it consistent with the terms of the Agreement, the directives of the Act, and the spirit of our own interconnection agreement rules to approve the present amended terms and conditions subject to our own rules and general ratemaking proceedings.

II. ORDER

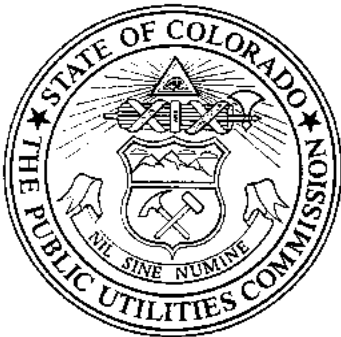
A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The joint motion of Qwest Corporation, formerly known as U S WEST Communications, Inc., and Level 3 Communications, LLC to amend their Interconnection Agreement is granted.

2. This Order is effective on its Mailed Date.

B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING April 9, 2003.

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Bruce N. Smith

Bruce N. Smith
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

GREGORY E. SOPKIN

POLLY PAGE

JIM DYER

Commissioners