

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

DOCKET NO. 98T-042

RE: THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND NEXTLINK COLORADO, L.L.C.

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

Mailed Date: February 18, 2004
Adopted Date: February 18, 2004

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. This matter comes before the Commission on the joint motion of Qwest Corporation (Qwest) and XO Colorado, LLC, formerly known as Nextlink Colorado, L.L.C. (XO) for approval of an Amendment to their Interconnection Agreement (Agreement). The Agreement was initially approved in Decision No. C98-259, issued March 12, 1998, and subsequently amended.

2. The Parties filed this Amendment on January 15, 2004. The Parties have agreed to amend the Agreement to add rates, terms, and conditions for Unbundled Network Element Combinations (UNE-Cs). UNE-C consists of elements such as Unbundled Network Element Platform (UNE-P) POTS, UNE-P PBX, and UNE-P Centrex. Rates are those found in the Ninth Revised Statement of Generally Available Terms and Conditions (SGAT) which became effective on May 3, 2003, pursuant to Commission Decision No. C03-0464, effective May 5, 2003, and are available to all facilities-based competitive local exchange carriers. Language is similar to that found in the SGAT but is unique to the parties.

3. Under the terms of the 47 U.S.C. § 252(i) “pick and choose” provision of the Act, XO may at some future date opt into the rates, terms, and conditions of Commission approved and currently effective agreements, amendments, SGATs, 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. We find it consistent with the directives of the Act and 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 and XO Colorado, L.L.C. to amend their Interconnection Agreement is granted.

2. This Order is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
February 18, 2004.**

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

Commissioners