

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

DOCKET NO. 00T-064

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF INTERCONNECTION
AGREEMENT BETWEEN U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND ELECTRO-TEL,
INC.

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

Mailed Date: November 23, 2004

Adopted Date: November 17, 2004

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 Eschelon Telecom of Colorado, Inc., formerly known as Electro-Tel, Inc. (Eschelon), for approval of an Amendment to their Interconnection Agreement (Agreement). The Agreement was initially approved in Decision No. C00-245 issued March 9, 2000.

2. The Parties filed this negotiated Amendment on October 15, 2004. This motion seeks to amend the Agreement by extending the termination date of the previously approved amendment for Qwest DSL (with discount) provided with the unbundled network element-platform which was approved by the Commission in Decision No. C04-0173. The Parties filed this voluntarily negotiated Amendment pursuant to 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-44-4.

3. Under the terms of 47 U.S.C. § 252(i) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act), Eschelon may at some future date opt into the terms and conditions of Commission approved and currently effective agreements:

[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 previously approved all of the amended rates and conditions proposed here. We thus 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 Eschelon Telecom of Colorado, Inc. to amend their Interconnection Agreement is granted.

2. This Order is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
November 17, 2004.**

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

Commissioners