

Decision No. C04-1438

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

DOCKET NO. 00T-423

RE: THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN QWEST CORPORATION AND Z-TEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

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

Mailed Date: December 7, 2004

Adopted Date: December 1, 2004

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. This matter comes before the Commission on the joint motion of Qwest Corporation (Qwest) and Z-Tel Communications, Inc. (Z-Tel), for approval of an Amendment to their Interconnection Agreement (Agreement). The Agreement was initially approved in Decision No. C00-990, issued September 8, 2000.

2. The Parties filed this negotiated Amendment on October 22, 2004. The Parties have decided to amend the Agreement to add rates, terms, and conditions for Elimination of UNE-P and Implementation of Batch Hot Cut Process and Discounts. Under the terms of 47 U.S.C. § 252(i) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act), Z-Tel 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.

3. 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.

4. The proposed rates and conditions have not been previously approved but are supported by cost studies on file in Docket No. 99A-577T. We therefore 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 Z-Tel Communications, Inc. to amend their Interconnection Agreement is granted.

2. This Order is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
December 1, 2004.**

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

Commissioners

COMMISSIONER POLLY PAGE
ABSENT.