

OPEN MEETING



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MEMORANDUM

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TO: THE COMMISSION

2001 NOV 28 P 12:00

FROM: Utilities Division

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCUMENT CONTROL

DATE: November 28, 2001

RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF QWEST CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE BILL AND KEEP FOR RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION AMENDMENT TO THE WIRELINE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT WITH ESCHELON TELECOM OF ARIZONA, INC., F/K/A ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. (DOCKET NOS. T-01051B-01-0810 AND T-03406A-01-0810)

On October 15, 2001, Qwest Corporation ("Qwest") filed an Application for approval of an Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest and Eschelon Telecom of Arizona, Inc., f/k/a Advanced Telecommunications, Inc. ("Eschelon"). The original Interconnection Agreement was approved by the Commission on April 28, 2000, in Decision No. 62489.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("1996 Act") directed incumbent local exchange carriers to make their networks available for interconnection and resale by new entrants to the local exchange market. The 1996 Act provides for interconnection and resale agreements to be concluded by voluntary negotiation. This Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest and Eschelon was voluntarily negotiated, without resort to arbitration.

Under the terms of this Amendment, terms and conditions for Bill and Keep language is added.

According to the 1996 Act and State Rule, the Commission must approve voluntarily negotiated interconnection and resale agreements if their provisions are non-discriminatory and in the public interest. Staff has reviewed the Amendment and finds it to be non-discriminatory and in the public interest. Qwest is offering the same terms and conditions of the Agreement to all other interested parties. The Agreement is in the public interest because it will act to further competition in the local exchange market in Arizona.

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Since there are no grounds for rejection of the Amendment pursuant to Section 252(e)(2)(A) of the 1996 Act, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest and Eschelon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E.G. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ernest G. Johnson

Director

Utilities Division

EGJ:EAA:rdp/JMA

ORIGINATOR: Erinn Andreasen