

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of Western Wireless Corp.,)	Application No. C-1409
of Issaquah, Washington, Petitioning for)	
Arbitration Pursuant to Section 252(b))	
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996)	Motion Denied
of the Rates, Terms and Conditions of)	
Interconnection with US West)	
Communications, Inc.)	Entered: April 1, 1997

APPEARANCES:

For Western Wireless:
Gene DeJordy
2001 N.W. Sammamish Road
Issaquah, Washington 98027
and
Steve Seglin
Crosby, Guenzel, et. al.
134 S. 13th Street, Suite 400
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

For US West Communications:
Richard Johnson
200 South 5th Street, Room 395
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

BY THE COMMISSION:

On February 28, 1997, the Commission approved in part and rejected in part the Arbitrator's Recommended Decision in this proceeding. On March 7, 1997, Western Wireless (Western) filed a motion for rehearing on the Commission's order stating the Commission erred in rejecting the Arbitrator's finding that Western should be compensated at the US West tandem interconnection rate level. Oral arguments were held on the motion on March 17, 1997 in the Commission Hearing Room, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Western states the Arbitrator's Recommended Decision was correct in that it determined Western was entitled to compensation at the US West tandem interconnection rate level due to the geographic area served by Western's switch and the functionality of Western's network. US West objects to the motion and states that there is no evidence in the record which verifies that Western's switch functions as a tandem switch. US West further claims that Western does not incur the costs associated with tandem switching.

We do not believe the record in this proceeding supports a finding that Western is entitled to recover costs at the US West tandem interconnection rate level. While we find that Western experiences costs in terminating US West's traffic on its network, we do not believe that such costs are identified in the record as being symmetrical to those experienced by US West. It would violate Section 252(d) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to allow Western to recover such costs as "tandem expenses". If Western identifies the actual costs it incurs in a subsequent cost

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study, it should be entitled to compensation and the interconnection agreement should be accordingly modified. At this time however, we affirm that Western should not recover tandem switching costs which it does not incur through the tandem interconnection rate. Western's motion for rehearing is denied.

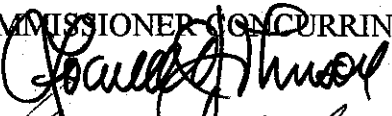
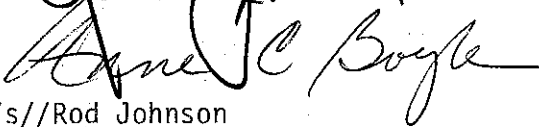
ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the Motion for Rehearing filed by Western Wireless is denied.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 1st day of April, 1997.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONER CONCURRING:

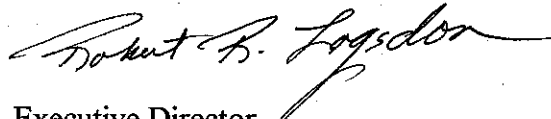



//s//Rod Johnson
//s//Frank E. Landis
//s//Daniel G. Urwiller

Chairman



ATTEST:


Executive Director