

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Western ) Application No. C-1410  
Wireless Corporation, of Issaquah, )  
Washington, Petitioning for )  
Arbitration Pursuant to Section ) Interconnection  
252(b) of the Telecommunications ) Agreement Approved  
Act of 1996 of the Rates, Terms, )  
and Conditions of Interconnection )  
with GTE of the Midwest, Inc. ) Entered: June 4, 1997

BY THE COMMISSION

On March 29, 1996, Western Wireless Corporation (Western Wireless) requested renegotiation of its existing interconnection contract with GTE of the Midwest, Inc. (GTE). On February 8, 1996, Western Wireless filed a request for negotiation of an interconnection agreement with GTE. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act) permits renegotiation of existing contracts between an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) and a Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) provider pursuant to Section 251(b)(5). Pursuant to Section 252(b)(1) of the Act, Western Wireless filed a petition for arbitration with the Commission on September 6, 1996.

A hearing was held before an Arbitrator on December 6, 1996. The Arbitrator's decision was rendered on January 6, 1997. The interconnection agreement was filed with the Commission on February 6, 1997. A hearing was held on the interconnection agreement in the Commission Hearing Room on February 28, 1997, with Commissioner Rod Johnson chairing the proceeding.

On April 1, 1997, the Commission approved in part and rejected in part the Arbitrator's Recommended Decision. Furthermore, it was ordered that the Arbitrator submit a proposed schedule containing the date in which the interconnection agreement would be refiled consistent with the Commission order. An informal meeting to discuss all pending issues was held between the Arbitrator, Western Wireless and GTE on April 22, 1997. The Commission received the final interconnection agreement on May 20, 1997.

O P I N I O N   A N D   F I N D I N G S

Section 252(e) of the Act mandates state commissions to review arbitrated interconnection agreements to ensure they comply with Section 251 and 252(d) of the Act, as well as all applicable state laws. Using those standards, we find the proposed interconnection agreement, filed May 20, 1997, may be approved. We further find that the proposed interconnection agreement complies with the Commission's order dated April 1, 1997 (C-1410 - Recommended Decision Granted in Part, Denied in Part).

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O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the interconnection agreement between GTE and Western Wireless is hereby approved.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 4th day of June, 1997.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



//s//Rod Johnson

//s//Frank E. Landis

//s//Daniel G. Urwiller

Chairman



ATTEST:



Executive Director