

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application	)	Application No. C-1841
of GTE Midwest, Inc. of Wentzville,	)	
Missouri, and Firstel, Inc. of Sioux	)	INTERCONNECTION
Falls, South Dakota, jointly seeking	)	AGREEMENT
approval of their voluntarily	)	APPROVED
negotiated interconnection	)	
agreement.	)	Entered: August 25, 1998

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

On July 13, 1998, Firstel, Inc. and GTE Midwest, Inc. (GTE Midwest) jointly filed an application seeking approval of their voluntarily negotiated interconnection agreement. Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record on July 14, 1998. The Nebraska Independent Telephone Association filed comments on Firstel and GTE Midwest's interconnection agreement. No protests were filed. Therefore, this application is processed pursuant to the Commission's Rule of Modified Procedure.

Pursuant to Section 252(a) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act), Firstel and GTE Midwest entered into a master resale interconnection agreement arrived at through voluntary negotiations. An executed copy of the voluntarily negotiated interconnection agreement is contained within the application.

Neither the agreement nor any portion thereof discriminates against any telecommunications carrier that is not a party to the agreement. Furthermore, the implementation of the agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

Section 252(e) of the Act requires this Commission to review negotiated interconnection agreements to ensure they comply with Sections 251 and 252(d) of the Act, as well as all applicable state laws. Using those standards, the interconnection agreement filed July 13, 1998, should be approved.

Firstel has already received a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from this Commission authorizing it to provide local exchange service in Nebraska and has filed a tariff in accordance with the provisions of Section 002.21 of Neb. Admin. R. & Regs. tit. 291, ch. 5.

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O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the voluntarily negotiated interconnection agreement between Firstel, Inc. and GTE Midwest, Inc. be, and it is hereby, approved.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the executed interconnection agreement filed herein be, and it is hereby, made the official copy on file with the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 25th day of August, 1998.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



//s//Lowell C. Johnson  
//s//Frank E. Landis  
//s//Daniel G. Urwiller

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director