BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of) Application No. C-1857
E-Z Phone Connections of Papillion,)
and US West Communications, Inc.) INTERCONNECTION
of Denver, Colorado, jointly) AGREEMENT
seeking approval of their volun-) APPROVED
tarily negotiated interconnection)
agreement.) Entered: August 25, 1998

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND FINDINGS

On July 22, 1998, E-Z Phone Connections (E-Z Phone) and US West Communications, Inc. (US West) jointly filed an application seeking approval of their voluntarily negotiated interconnection agreement. Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record on July 23, 1998. The Nebraska Independent Telephone Association filed comments on E-Z Phone and US West'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), E-Z Phone and US West 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 22, 1998, should be approved.

E-Z Phone has already received a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from this Commission authorizing it to provide local exchange service in Nebraska. However, before E-Z Phone can provide basic local exchange service under this agreement, it must file a tariff in accordance with the provisions of Section 002.21 of Neb. Admin. R. & Regs. tit. 291, ch. 5.

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ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the voluntarily negotiated interconnection agreement between E-Z Phone Connections and US West Communications, 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:

ATTEST:

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

Executive Director