BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the joint Appli-) Application No. C-1923 cation of GTE Midwest Incorporat-) ed of Grinnell, Iowa, and Max-Tel) INTERCONNECTION Communications, Inc. of Alvord,) AGREEMENT APPROVED Texas, seeking approval of their) voluntarily-negotiated intercon-) nection agreement.) Entered: November 24, 1998

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND FINDINGS

On October 22, 1998, GTE Midwest Incorporated (GTE) of Grinnell, Iowa, and Max-Tel Communications, Inc. (Max-Tel) of Alvord, Texas, jointly filed an application seeking approval of their voluntarily-negotiated interconnection agreement. Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record on October 26, 1998. The Nebraska Independent Telephone Association filed comments on GTE and Max-Tel'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), GTE and Max-Tel 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 October 22, 1998, should be approved.

Before Max-Tel can provide basic local exchange services under this agreement, it must first receive a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from this Commission authorizing it to provide local exchange service in Nebraska and must file a tariff in accordance with the provisions of Section 002.21 of Neb. Admin. R. & Regs. tit. 291, ch. 5.

Application No. C-1923

PAGE TWO

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the voluntarily-negotiated interconnection agreement between GTE Midwest Incorporated and Max-Tel 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 24th day of November, 1998.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

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//s//Frank E. Landis

//s//Daniel G. Urwiller Executive Director