

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

The Commission, on its own)	Application No. C-2498/PI-47
motion, to determine the)	
appropriate price for Expanded)	ORDER CLOSING DOCKET
Interconnection Channel)	
Termination (EICT).)	Entered: July 9, 2002

BY THE COMMISSION:

1. After hearing concerns raised by Aliant Communications, Inc., d/b/a ALLTEL (ALLTEL), the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission), on its own motion, opened the above-captioned investigation seeking to determine the appropriate price for Expanded Interconnection Channel Termination (EICT).¹

2. Notice of this investigation was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on March 21, 2001, pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Procedure.

3. Since the pricing of this element was incident to the Commission's investigation of cost studies to establish rates for Qwest's unbundled network elements (UNEs), interconnection, transport and termination and resale services in Docket No. C-2516/PI-49, the Commission set forth a procedural schedule to include testimony on EICT in Docket No. C-2516/PI-49. The Commission heard testimony with respect to the appropriate pricing mechanism for EICT in phase two of its cost investigation in September of 2001.

4. On December 4, 2001, ALLTEL and Qwest entered into a stipulation whereby the parties agreed to a monthly recurring rate of \$0.44 for Interconnection Tie Pairs (ITP),² which to the Commission's knowledge satisfied ALLTEL's initial concerns with regard to EICT.

¹ The EICT is a separate element that serves as a link between a competitive local exchange carrier's (CLECs) collocation space and a frame. If a CLEC is buying an unbundled loop to connect to its own facilities, then the CLEC had to buy the connection between the frame and the collocation space. According to Qwest, it is a separate element from the loop and it is not included in the common costs that would be allocated to other elements. Qwest's Comments (April 6, 2001) at 1.

² Qwest stated that it no longer proposes an EICT for UNEs, rather it proposes an ITP element and a termination element. Qwest's ITP is a connection between the UNE and an intermediate distribution frame (IDF), which is the demarcation point. For voice grade unbundled loops, the ITP would connect the COSMIC frame to the IDF. Id. at 2.

5. The Commission put this stipulated price out for comment and questioned whether all parties believed that this price was total element long run incremental cost (TELRIC) based. No party filed comments in opposition to the \$0.44 price.³

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

6. At this time, the Commission finds that the above-captioned docket should be closed.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the above-captioned investigation be, and it is hereby, closed.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 9th day of July, 2002.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director

³ The Commission's economic consultant, Dr. Rosenbaum, stated that he believed the stipulated price fell within the range of reasonableness under a TELRIC pricing methodology.