

**BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

VERIZON NORTH INC. AND)
VERIZON SOUTH INC.)
AND)
COST PLUS COMMUNICATIONS, LLC)
Joint Petition For Approval)
Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 252 (a)(1) and)
252(e) of an Interconnection Agreement)

Docket No. _____

**JOINT PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION
AGREEMENT BETWEEN VERIZON NORTH INC. AND VERIZON SOUTH INC.
AND COST PLUS COMMUNICATIONS, LLC**

Verizon North Inc. and Verizon South Inc. (collectively “Verizon”) and Cost Plus Communications, LLC (“Cost Plus”), pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§252(a)(1) and 252(e) and Ill. Admin. Code Tit. 83, § 763, petition the Illinois Commerce Commission to approve the Interconnection Agreement (the “Agreement”) between Verizon and Cost Plus on the following grounds:

1. Petitioner Verizon is a telecommunications carrier within the meaning of Section 13-202 of the Universal Telephone Protection Act of 1985, 220 ILCS 5/13-100, et seq. and is authorized to provide and is currently providing, intraMSA exchange and interexchange telecommunications services to customers within certain certificated areas of the State of Illinois.
2. Petitioner Cost Plus is a certified provider of telecommunication service in Illinois.

3. The proposed Agreement, attached to this petition as Exhibit 1, was negotiated voluntarily between Verizon and Cost Plus. Accordingly, Verizon and Cost Plus are requesting approval of the Agreement pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 252(a)(1) and 252(e).

4. Under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, this Commission must approve the filed Agreement unless:

- (i) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or,
- (ii) the implementation of such an agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. See 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2).

5. Agreements voluntarily negotiated between or among parties do not have to comply with the standards set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 251(b) & (c) or the pricing standards set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 252(d).¹

6. As provided in the Statement in Support of the Approval of an Interconnection Agreement Verizon will make the arrangements set forth in the filed Agreement available on the same terms and conditions to any duly authorized telecommunications carrier operating within the State of Illinois in accordance with any and all applicable legal provisions. Therefore, this Agreement is non-discriminatory.

¹ VOLUNTARY NEGOTIATIONS – Upon receiving a request for interconnection, services, or network elements pursuant to section 251, an incumbent local exchange carrier may negotiate and enter into a binding agreement with the requesting telecommunications carrier or carriers without regard to the standards set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of § 251. See 47 U.S.C.A. § 252(a)(1).

7. Among other things, this Agreement establishes the terms and conditions for the interconnection, resale and unbundling of telecommunications services. Such agreements are to be encouraged. Thus, the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

THEREFORE, Verizon and Cost Plus respectfully request that the Agreement between Verizon North Inc. and Verizon South Inc. and Cost Plus be approved as filed.

Respectfully submitted this _____ day of _____
2007.

VERIZON NORTH INC. AND
VERIZON SOUTH INC.

COST PLUS COMMUNICATIONS, LLC

By: _____

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