

BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

VERIZON NORTH INC.,)
VERIZON SOUTH INC. AND)
NOW COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)
)
Joint Petition of Verizon North Inc.,)
Verizon South Inc. and)
NOW Communications, Inc.)
For Approval Pursuant To 47 U.S.C.)
§§ 252 (a)(1) and 252(e),)
of a Resale Agreement)

JOINT PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT AMONG
VERIZON NORTH INC., VERIZON SOUTH INC. AND
NOW COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Verizon North Inc., Verizon South Inc. (collectively (“Verizon”)) and NOW Communications, Inc. (“NOW”), 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 NOW 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 NOW 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 NOW. Accordingly, Verizon and NOW are requesting approval of the Agreement pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 252(a)(1) and 252(e).

4. Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Public Law 104-104, 110 Stats. 56 (effective February 8, 1996), 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. Nor do agreements voluntarily negotiated between or among parties 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 an Interconnection Agreement, attached as Exhibit 2, 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. Therefore, this Agreement is non-discriminatory.

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

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).

THEREFORE, Verizon and NOW respectfully request that the agreement among Verizon North Inc., Verizon South Inc. and NOW Communications, Inc. be approved as filed.

Respectfully submitted this _____ day of _____ 2001.

VERIZON NORTH INC.
VERIZON SOUTH INC.

NOW COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

By: _____

By: _____

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