DT 02-160

VERIZON NEW HAMPSHIRE/TCG NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC.

Order Approving Adopted Interconnection Agreement

O R D E R N O. 24,084

November 8, 2002

On August 28, 2002, Verizon New England d/b/a Verizon
New Hampshire (Verizon) and TCG New Hampshire, Inc., (TCG)
jointly filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
(Commission) an Interconnection Agreement (Agreement) pursuant to
Section 252(i) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (TAct), 47
U.S.C. § 252(i). The Agreement is a duplicate of an
Interconnection Agreement that was originally negotiated between
ACC National Telecom Corp. and New England Telephone and
Telegraph Company, d/b/a Bell Atlantic-New Hampshire (Original
Agreement). The Original Agreement was approved by the
Commission in DT 98-188 by Order No. 23,095 (December 21, 1998).
A First Amendment to the Original Agreement dated September 22,
1999, allows the Original Agreement to remain in effect on a
month to month basis while the parties renegotiate the terms and
conditions of a successor agreement. The First Amendment is part
of the Agreement reviewed here.

The Agreement is a comprehensive set of terms and
conditions that will facilitate the provisioning of
telecommunications service by TCG as a CLEC in New Hampshire.
Staff recommends the Agreement be allowed to go into effect

immediately as it contains the same terms and conditions as a currently effective interconnection agreement.

We have reviewed the filing and find that approval is warranted as recommended by Staff. The Agreement meets the requirements of Section 252(e)(2)(A). We note that TCG may purchase services or unbundled elements from Verizon's Statement of Generally Available Terms (SGAT) and its subsequent revisions.

In order to promote the continued growth of competitive telecommunications services in New Hampshire, we will require TCG to comply with our notice requirements regarding "Fresh Look" opportunities pursuant to Order Nos. 22,798 and 22,903. The recommended method for giving notice is to provide the Commission with a contemporaneous copy of the Confirmation of Code Activation form which is used to notify the North American Numbering Code Administrator.

As new competitors enter the telecommunications market, we recognize that New Hampshire's 603 area code encounters constantly increasing demand. Accordingly, we will require that TCG request and use numbers responsibly and conservatively, and invite TCG to explore alternative mechanisms to use existing numbers as efficiently as possible. In approving this Agreement, we require TCG to comply with our orders on number conservation including Order No. 23,385 issued January 7, 2000, and Order No.

23,392 issued January 27, 2000, as well as further orders issued by the Commission concerning this matter.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the Interconnection Agreement between TCG New Hampshire Inc. and Verizon New Hampshire is APPROVED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that TCG is required to comply with our Order No. 23,385 issued January 7, 2000, Order No. 23,392 issued January 27, 2000, and further orders issued by the Commission concerning number conservation; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that TCG is prohibited from placing any orders under this Agreement and from otherwise doing business in New Hampshire until such time as TCG has complied with all requirements of applicable federal and state law or regulation; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that TCG shall notify the Commission within ten days of making their first facility-based commercial call in any exchange that has not already been opened to a "Fresh Look" opportunity as ordered in Docket DE 96-420; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any clause in the Agreement found to be in violation of any Commission order is null and void.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eighth day of November, 2002.

_____   _____   _____
  Thomas B. Getz   Susan S. Geiger   Nancy Brockway
     Chairman   Commissioner   Commissioner

Attested by:

_____
Debra A. Howland
Executive Director and Secretary