BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

)

In the Matter of the Application of)

VERIZON HAWAII INC.

DOCKET NO. 02-0175

For Approval of a Negotiated Interconnection Agreement with Excel Telecommunications, Inc.



DECISION AND ORDER NO. 19673

Filed Sept. 25, 2002 At 8:00 o'clock A.M. Chief Clerk of the Commission

ATTEST: A True Copy KAREN HIGASHI Chief Clerk, Public Utilities Commission State of Hawaii.

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For Approval of a Negotiated Interconnection Agreement with Excel Telecommunications, Inc. Decision and Order No. 19673

DECISION AND ORDER

I.

By application filed on July 2, 2002, VERIZON HAWAII INC. (Verizon Hawaii) seeks commission approval of an interconnection agreement negotiated with EXCEL TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. (Excel). Verizon Hawaii makes its request pursuant to 47 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 252(e)(1) and Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) § 6-80-54.

Copies of the application and agreement were served on the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Division of Consumer Advocacy (Consumer Advocate).

In accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 252(e), if a state commission does not act to approve or reject a negotiated interconnection agreement within 90 days after the agreement is submitted to the commission, "the agreement shall be deemed approved."¹ The 90th day deadline governing the commission's review is on or about September 30, 2002.

 $^{^{1}}Accord$ HAR § 6-80-54(c).

Verizon Hawaii is a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Hawaii (State), and engaged in the provision of varied telecommunications services within its certificated territory in the State. Verizon Hawaii is an "incumbent local exchange carrier" as the term is defined in 47 U.S.C. § 252.

Excel is a certificated facilities based carrier and reseller of telecommunications services in the State.²

The scope of the agreement includes interconnection, resale, network elements, collocation, and other services. The agreement is deemed effective as of June 3, 2002, until June 2, 2004.

The interconnection agreement was consummated through voluntary negotiations between the parties, as contemplated by 47 U.S.C. § 252(a), and addresses interconnection services provided pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 251. In our review of the agreement, we are governed by 47 U.S.C. § 252(e) and HAR § 6-80-54. These sections provide that we may reject a negotiated agreement only if:

> The agreement, or any portion of the agreement, discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or

II.

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²<u>See</u> Decision and Order No. 19311, filed on April 19, 2002, in Docket No. 02-0026.

(2) The implementation of the agreement, or any portion of the agreement, is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

Upon review, we find that the interconnection agreement does not discriminate against other telecommunications carriers, and the implementation of the agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. Accordingly, we conclude that the negotiated agreement should be approved.

III.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

1. The negotiated interconnection agreement between Verizon Hawaii Inc. and Excel Telecommunications, Inc., submitted on July 2, 2002, is approved.

2. This docket is closed.

DONE at Honolulu, Hawaii this 25th day of September, 2002.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Wayne H. Kimura, Chairman

By

Janet E. Kawelo, Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Benedyne S. Stone Commission Counsel

By (RECUSED) Gregg J. Kinkley, Commissioner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served a copy of the foregoing <u>Decision and Order No. 19673</u> upon the following parties, by causing a copy hereof to be mailed, postage prepaid, and properly addressed to each such party.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS DIVISION OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY P. O. Box 541 Honolulu, HI 96809

JOEL K. MATSUNAGA VICE PRESIDENT-EXTERNAL AFFAIRS VERIZON HAWAII INC. P. O. Box 2200 Honolulu, HI 96841

MELISSA SMITH EXCEL TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. 1600 Viceroy Drive, 4th Floor Dallas, TX 75235

Catherine Sakato

DATED: September 25, 2002