

October 27, 2005



By DHL/Airborne Overnight Express Mail and by email

Larry Christensen
Director – Interconnection Agreements
Qwest
1801 California, Room 2410
Denver, CO 80202

Re: Commencement of ICA Negotiations Pursuant to Sections 251 and 252
for the states of Arizona, Oregon, and Utah

Dear Mr. Christensen:

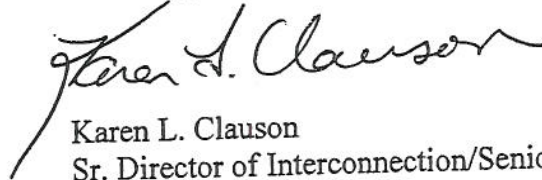
With this letter and pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the federal Act, Eschelon notifies Qwest that Eschelon requests, and is initiating, interconnection agreement (ICA) negotiations in the states of Arizona, Oregon, and Utah effective today, October 27, 2005. Based upon this date, the time period for petitioning the state commissions to arbitrate any open issues pursuant to Section 252(b)(1) is from March 12, 2006 through April 4, 2006.

The Parties have been negotiating ICA language for some time and have had previous discussions about state-specific language for the states in Qwest territory in which Eschelon operates. The plan is to use the same base document from which the parties are currently negotiating for Colorado, Minnesota, and Washington, including the provisions addressing TRO/TRRO issues. Each party will then add state-specific language to the document when desired in the same manner that state-specific differences are handled now for Colorado, Minnesota, and Washington. (In the current negotiation document, for example, Qwest has included a state-specific note relating to Arizona (in §21.10)). Over the course of the negotiation timeframe described above (unless the parties enter into mutually agreeable time extensions), each party will need to identify, propose, and discuss any desired state-specific different language for Arizona, Oregon, and Utah.

Subject to confirmation from Qwest, we believe the next negotiation call will occur on November 8, 2005 to discuss Section 9. We may want to continue on that path and leave the state-specific differences for Arizona, Oregon, and Utah until after such

discussions, or we may decide upon another approach. Please discuss the issue internally and then we can discuss how to proceed on the next negotiation call.

Sincerely,



Karen L. Clauson
Sr. Director of Interconnection/Senior Attorney
Eschelon Telecom, Inc.
612.436.6026 (direct)
612.436.6126 (fax)
klclauson@eschelon.com

cc: Qwest, Director, Interconnection Compliance
Qwest, General Counsel, Law Department
Linda Miles, Qwest (by email)
Harisha Bastiampillai, Qwest (by email)
Jeff Oxley, Eschelon (by email)
Doug Denney, Eschelon (by email)
Joan Olson, Eschelon (by email)

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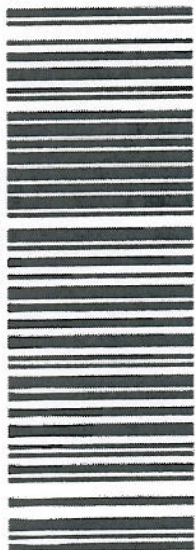

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