

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
Uniform Cover and Calendar Sheet

<b>1. REPORT DATE:</b> July 11, 2006	<b>2. BUREAU AGENDA NO.</b> JUL-2006-OSA-0171*
<b>3. BUREAU:</b> Office of Special Assistants	
<b>4. SECTION(S):</b>	<b>5. PUBLIC MEETING DATE:</b>
<b>6. APPROVED BY:</b> Director: C.W. Davi <i>[Signature]</i> Mgr/Spvr: R. Marinko 3-3930 <i>[Signature]</i> Legal Review: A. Arnold <i>[Signature]</i> 7-8032	July 20, 2006 <b>DOCUMENT FOLDER</b>
<b>7. PERSONS IN CHARGE:</b> <i>[Signature]</i> G. Stella 7-1023	<b>9. EFFECTIVE DATE OF FILING:</b> August 22, 2006
<b>8. DOCKET NO.:</b> A-310752F7005	<b>DOCKETED</b> OCT 05 2006

10. (a) **CAPTION** (abbreviate if more than 4 lines)  
 (b) **Short summary of history & facts, documents & briefs**  
 (c) **Recommendation**

(a) Joint Petition of North Pittsburgh Telephone Company (North Pittsburgh) and MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC (MCImetro) for Approval of an Interconnection Agreement Under Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

(b) On May 22, 2006, North Pittsburgh and MCImetro filed the Joint Petition seeking approval of an Interconnection Agreement. Notice of the Joint Petition was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on June 10, 2006. No comments have been received.

(c) The Office of Special Assistants recommends that the Commission adopt a proposed Opinion and Order which grants the Joint Petition.

**11. MOTION BY:** Commissioner Chm. Holland  
**SECONDED:** Commissioner Cawley  
 Commissioner Shane - Yes  
 Commissioner Pizzingrilli - Yes  
 Commissioner Fitzpatrick - Yes

**CONTENT OF MOTION:** Staff recommendation adopted.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
P.O. BOX 6265, HARRISBURG, PA 17105-3265

IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO OUR FILE

July 26, 2006

A-310752F7005

RENARDO HICKS  
ANDERSON GULOTTA & HICKS PC  
121 STATE STREET  
HARRISBURG PA 17101

DOCUMENT  
FOLDER

Joint Petition of North Pittsburgh Telephone  
Company and MCI metro Access Transmission  
Services, LLC for Approval of an  
Interconnection Agreement Under Section  
252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996


**DOCKETED**  
OCT 29 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to advise you that the Commission in Public Meeting on July 20, 2006 has adopted an Opinion and Order in the above-entitled proceeding.

An Opinion and Order has been enclosed for your records.

Very truly yours,

  
James J. McNulty  
Secretary

Enclosure  
Certified Mail  
JF

DANIEL E MONAGLE  
ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL  
1717 ARCH STREET 10W  
PHILADELPHIA PA 19103

MICHELLE PAINTER ESQUIRE  
22001 LOUDOUN COUNTY PARKWAY  
ASHBURN VA 20147

PENNSYLVANIA  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Public Meeting held July 20, 2006

Commissioners Present:

Wendell F. Holland, Chairman  
James H. Cawley, Vice Chairman  
Bill Shane  
Kim Pizzingrilli  
Terrance J. Fitzpatrick

DOCUMENT  
FOLDER

Joint Petition of North Pittsburgh Telephone  
Company and MCImetro Access Transmission  
Services, LLC for Approval of an  
Interconnection Agreement Under Section  
252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

A-310752F7005

OPINION AND ORDER

DOCKETED  
OCT 29 2007

BY THE COMMISSION:

Before the Commission for consideration is the Joint Petition for approval of an Interconnection Agreement (Joint Petition) between North Pittsburgh Telephone Company (North Pittsburgh) and MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC (MCImetro) filed pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (codified as amended in scattered sections of Title 47, United States Code) (TA-96), including 47 U.S.C. §§ 251, 252, and 271, and the Commission's Orders in *Re: Implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, Docket No. M-00960799 (Order entered on June 3, 1996; Order on Reconsideration entered on September 9, 1996); *see also Proposed Modifications to the review of Interconnection Agreements* (Order entered on May 3, 2004). (*Implementation Orders*).

### History of the Proceeding

On May 22, 2006, North Pittsburgh and MCImetro filed the Joint Petition seeking approval of the Agreement. The Commission published notice of the Joint Petition and the Agreement in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on June 10, 2006, advising that any interested parties could file comments within ten days. No comments have been received.

The Agreement has an effective date of the date that the Commission approves it and a termination date one year thereafter. The Agreement shall remain in effect until its termination date, unless it is cancelled earlier by one of the Parties as provided for in the Agreement. Thereafter, the Agreement shall continue in effect, unless cancelled by one of the Parties as provided for in the Agreement. (Agreement at 1, 12).

In the Joint Petition before us, North Pittsburgh is the Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) and MCImetro is a Reseller and a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> It is noted that regardless of the types of services covered by this Interconnection Agreement, it would be a violation of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. §§ 101 *et seq.*, if the Applicant began offering services or assessing surcharges to end users which it has not been authorized to provide and for which tariffs have not been authorized.

**A. Standard of Review**

The standard for review of a negotiated interconnection agreement is set out in Section 252(e)(2) of TA-96, 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2). Section 252(e)(2) provides in pertinent part, that:

- (2) Grounds for rejection. The state commission may only reject—
  - (A) an agreement (or any portion thereof) adopted by negotiation under subsection (a) if it finds that –
    - (i) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or
    - (ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. . . .

With these criteria in mind, we shall review the Agreement submitted by North Pittsburgh and MCImetro.

**B. Summary of Terms**

The Agreement contains the terms, rates and conditions for the interconnection of the Parties' local exchange networks for the purpose of transmission and termination of calls, so that customers of each can receive calls that originate on the other's network and place calls that terminate on the other's network. Section 5.1.2 on pages 51-52 of Attachment B to the Agreement provides that it will be assumed that traffic is in balance during the term of the Agreement. Thus, reciprocal compensation for

local traffic termination for the duration of the Agreement will be applied on a “bill-and-keep” basis.

### **C. Disposition**

We shall approve the Agreement, finding that it satisfies the two-pronged criteria of Section 252(e) of TA-96. We note that in approving this privately negotiated agreement, including any provisions limiting unbundled access to North Pittsburgh’s network, we express no opinion regarding the enforceability of our independent state authority preserved by 47 U.S.C. § 251(d)(3) and any other applicable law.

We shall minimize the potential for discrimination against other carriers not parties to the Agreement by providing here that our approval of this Agreement shall not serve as precedent for agreements to be negotiated or arbitrated by other parties. This is consistent with our policy of encouraging settlements. 52 Pa. Code § 5.231; *see also*, 52 Pa. Code § 69.401, *et seq.*, relating to settlement guidelines, and our Statement of Policy relating to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Process, 52 Pa. Code § 69.391, *et seq.* On the basis of the foregoing, we find that the Agreement does not discriminate against other telecommunications carriers not parties to the negotiations.

TA-96 requires that the terms of the Agreement be made available for other parties to review. 47 U.S.C. § 252(h). However, this availability is only for purposes of full disclosure of the terms and arrangements contained therein. The accessibility of the Agreement and its terms to other parties does not connote any intent that our approval will affect the status of negotiations between other parties. In this context, we will not require North Pittsburgh and MCImetro to embody the terms of the Agreement in a filed tariff.

With regard to the public interest element of this matter, we note that no negotiated interconnection agreement may affect those obligations of the ILEC in the areas of protection of public safety and welfare, service quality, and the rights of consumers. *See, e.g.*, Section 253(b). This is consistent with TA-96 wherein service quality and standards, *i.e.*, Universal Service, 911, Enhanced 911, and Telecommunications Relay Service, are inherent obligations of the ILEC, and continue unaffected by a negotiated agreement. We have reviewed the Agreement's terms relating to 911 and E911 services and conclude that these provisions of the instant Agreement are consistent with the public interest.

Consistent with our May 3, 2004 Order at Docket No. M-00960799, we shall require that the ILEC file an electronic, true and correct copy of the Interconnection Agreement in ".pdf format" for inclusion on the Commission's website, within thirty days of the entry date of this Opinion and Order.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the foregoing and pursuant to Section 252(e) of TA-96, *supra*, and our *Implementation Orders*, we determine that the Interconnection Agreement between North Pittsburgh and MCImetro is non-discriminatory to other telecommunications companies not parties to it and that it is consistent with the public interest;

**THEREFORE,**

### **IT IS ORDERED:**

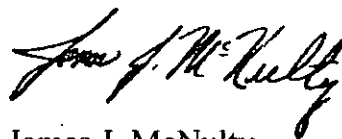
1. That the Joint Petition for approval of an Interconnection Agreement filed on May 22, 2006, by North Pittsburgh Telephone Company and MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the Commission's Orders in *In Re: Implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*,

Docket No. M-00960799 (Order entered on June 3, 1996; *Order on Reconsideration* entered on September 9, 1996); and *Proposed Modifications to the review of Interconnection Agreements* (Order entered on May 3, 2004) is granted, consistent with this Opinion and Order.

2. That approval of the Interconnection Agreement shall not serve as binding precedent for negotiated or arbitrated agreements between non-parties to the subject Agreement.

3. That North Pittsburgh Telephone Company shall file an electronic, true and correct copy of the Interconnection Agreement in “.pdf format” with this Commission within thirty (30) days of the entry of this Opinion and Order, for inclusion on the Commission’s website.

**BY THE COMMISSION,**



James J. McNulty  
Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER ADOPTED: July 20, 2006

ORDER ENTERED: JUL 26 2006



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RENARDO HICKS  
ANDERSON GULOTTA & HICKS, PC  
121 STATE STREET  
HARRISBURG PA 17101  
NORTH PITTSBURGH TELEPHONE

0002

MICHELLE PAINTER, ESQUIRE  
22001 LOUDOUN COUNTY PARKWAY  
ASHBURN VA 20147  
MCIMETRO ACCESS TRANSMISSION SERVICES

0003

DANIEL E. MONAGLE  
ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL  
1717 ARCH STREET, 10W  
PHILADELPHIA PA 19103  
VERIZON PA INC