

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Petition of WorldCom, Inc. Pursuant to Section)
252(e)(5) of the Communications Act for) CC Docket No. 00-218
Preemption of the Jurisdiction of the Virginia)
State Corporation Commission Regarding)
Interconnection Disputes with Verizon Virginia)
Inc., and for Expedited Arbitration)
)
Petition of AT&T Communications of Virginia)
Inc., Pursuant to Section 252(e)(5) of the) CC Docket No. 00-251
Communications Act for Preemption of the)
Jurisdiction of the Virginia Corporation)
Commission Regarding Interconnection Disputes)
With Verizon Virginia Inc.)
)

ORDER

Adopted: March 10, 2004

Released: March 10, 2004

By the Chief, Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On January 29, 2004, the Wireline Competition Bureau released a Memorandum Opinion and Order in the above-captioned matters that set forth the rates that Verizon Virginia Inc. (Verizon) may charge AT&T Communications of Virginia Inc. (AT&T) and WorldCom, Inc. (WorldCom) for access to unbundled network elements, interconnection, and resale. These rates became effective upon the release of the order on January 29, 2004. The Virginia Arbitration Compliance Order further required that Verizon and AT&T, and Verizon and WorldCom, amend their respective interconnection agreements to incorporate the rates set forth therein by February 9, 2004. Subsequently, we granted Verizon's

1 Petition of WorldCom, Inc. Pursuant to Section 252(e)(5) of the Communications Act for Preemption of the Jurisdiction of the Virginia State Corporation Commission Regarding Interconnection Disputes with Verizon Virginia Inc., and for Expedited Arbitration, CC Docket Nos. 00-218, 00-251, Memorandum Opinion and Order, DA 04-181 (WCB rel. Jan. 29, 2004) (Virginia Arbitration Compliance Order), as corrected by Petition of WorldCom, Inc. Pursuant to Section 252(e)(5) of the Communications Act for Preemption of the Jurisdiction of the Virginia State Corporation Commission Regarding Interconnection Disputes with Verizon Virginia Inc., and for Expedited Arbitration, CC Docket Nos. 00-218, 00-251, Erratum, DA 04-281 (WCB rel. Feb. 5, 2004).

2 Virginia Arbitration Compliance Order, at para. 42. Switching rates became effective as of August 1, 2002. Id.

3 Id. at paras. 41, 45-46; see also 47 C.F.R. § 1.4.

unopposed motion for an extension of time, extending the date for the parties to file their interconnection agreement amendments until March 10, 2004.⁴

2. On March 8, 2004, Verizon, AT&T, and WorldCom submitted a joint motion for an additional fourteen-day extension of time (until March 24, 2004) to file their interconnection agreement amendments.⁵ The parties claim that they “are in the midst of negotiations to resolve various outstanding issues concerning how to apply the ordered rates in the context of the rate structures and other terms in their agreements,” and that they need an additional two weeks to complete these negotiations.⁶ The parties further state that grant of this extension of time will not affect the effective dates of the rates.⁷

II. DISCUSSION

3. The *Joint Motion* for an extension of time until March 24, 2004 for the parties to submit amendments to their interconnection agreements to incorporate the rates ordered in the *Virginia Arbitration Compliance Order* is granted. It is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time are not routinely granted.⁸ We find, however, that there is good cause to extend the due date for filing interconnection agreement amendments. The parties explain that they are in the midst of negotiating how to apply the ordered rates within the context of their interconnection agreements and that they need a brief extension of time to complete these negotiations. Further, because all parties jointly request the extension of time, and because the effective date of the rates is not affected by the extension, granting the extension will not prejudice any party. We note, however, that, in granting this second extension of time, we will have provided the parties with almost two months from the release of the *Virginia Arbitration Compliance Order* to submit their amendments. In granting the parties the full extension of time they request (for a second time), we fully expect them to complete their negotiations and to submit the required interconnection agreements by March 24, 2004.

4. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to sections 4(i), 4(j), and 5(c) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j) 155(c), and sections 0.91, 0.291, and 1.46 of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, 1.46, the request for an extension of time filed by Verizon Virginia Inc., AT&T Communications of Virginia Inc., and WorldCom, Inc. IS GRANTED.

By Order of the Pricing Policy Division,

Tamara L. Preiss
Chief, Pricing Policy Division

⁴ *Petition of WorldCom, Inc. Pursuant to Section 252(e)(5) of the Communications Act for Preemption of the Jurisdiction of the Virginia State Corporation Commission Regarding Interconnection Disputes with Verizon Virginia Inc., and for Expedited Arbitration*, CC Docket Nos. 00-218, 00-251, Order, DA 04-324 (WCB/PPD rel. Feb. 9, 2004).

⁵ *Petition of WorldCom, Inc. Pursuant to Section 252(e)(5) of the Communications Act for Preemption of the Jurisdiction of the Virginia State Corporation Commission Regarding Interconnection Disputes with Verizon Virginia Inc., and for Expedited Arbitration*, CC Docket Nos. 00-218, 00-251, Joint Motion of Verizon Virginia Inc., AT&T Communications of Virginia Inc., and WorldCom, Inc. for Extension of Time to File Amendments to Interconnection Agreements (filed March 8, 2004) (*Joint Motion*).

⁶ *Id.* at 1-2.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

Wireline Competition Bureau