

Agenda Date: 10/04/12 Agenda Item: IVB

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 www.nj.gov/bpu/

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IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT APPLICATION OF)	ORDER APPROVING
VERIZON NEW JERSEY INC. AND SELECTEL, INC.)	INTERCONNECTION
FOR APPROVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION)	AGREEMENT
AGREEMENT UNDER SECTION 252 OF THE)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996)	DOCKET NO. TO12060557

Parties of Record:

Gregory M. Romano, for Verizon
Matt O'Flaherty, for Selectel, Inc.
Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

By letter dated June 25, 2012, Verizon New Jersey Inc. ("Verizon"), a New Jersey corporation, and Selectel, Inc. ("Selectel") (individually, "a Party", and jointly, "the Parties"), pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, P.L. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (codified in scattered sections of 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> §151 <u>et seq.</u>) ("the Act"), submitted to the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") a joint application ("Application") for approval of a certain negotiated interconnection agreement dated April 16, 2012 ("the Agreement").

The Agreement sets forth the terms, conditions, and prices under which Verizon will offer and provide access to unbundled network elements, ancillary services, and wholesale telecommunications services available for resale to Selectel. The Agreement is in effect until April 15, 2014 and thereafter, as noted in the Agreement, continues in full force and effect unless terminated as provided in the Agreement.

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> §252(a)(1), an incumbent Local Exchange Carrier may negotiate and enter into a binding interconnection agreement with a carrier requesting interconnection, service, or network elements. In addition, 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> §252(e)(1) requires approval by the Board of any interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation or arbitration, and further requires the Board to approve or reject the Agreement, with written findings as to any deficiencies. The Act provides that the Board may reject a negotiated agreement or any portion thereof only 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 thereof is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> §252(e)(2)(A).

The Board's review of the Agreement and the record in this matter indicate that the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, and that the Agreement does not discriminate against telecommunications carriers not parties to the Agreement. Therefore, the Board <u>FINDS</u> that the Agreement meets the standards set forth in the Act, and <u>HEREBY APPROVES</u> the Agreement as presented by the Parties. This approval should not be construed as preapproval of any future petitions for rate recovery of costs incurred pursuant to the Agreement, nor shall the Board be bound by any provisions within the Agreement regarding the confidentiality of information.

The Board notes that amendments or modifications to Board-approved interconnection agreements are subject to Board review and approval. No agreement shall be read, nor does the Board believe the Parties to the Agreement intend that it be read, to limit the authority of the Board under Section 252(e) of the Act to review interconnection agreements. Accordingly, until and unless otherwise provided by the Board, subsequent amendments or modifications to the Agreement approved herein shall be subject to review and approval by the Board. Additionally, pursuant to 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> §252(h), a copy of the Agreement will be made available for public inspection and copying within ten days of the service of this Order.

DATED: 10/4/12

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

ROBERT M. HANNA

PRESIDENT

JEJANNE M. FOX COMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSÉLTA

COMMISSIONER

SEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

VARY-ANNA HOLDEN

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public

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IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT APPLICATION OF VERIZON NEW JERSEY INC. AND SELECTEL, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT UNDER SECTION 252 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

DOCKET NO. TO12060557

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