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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Melissa E. Newman  
Vice President - Federal Regulatory

CC Docket No 98 - 147

June 20, 2000

96-98

Lawrence E. Strickling  
Chief, Common Carrier Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Line Sharing Implementation—Your Letter of June 2, 2000

Dear Mr. Strickling:

This is to respond to your letter of June 2, 2000, in which you request that U S WEST report to you on its progress it has made in preparation to meet the June 6, 2000 deadline for implementation of line sharing. In this letter we set forth a basic outline of our progress in implementing line sharing. We will, of course, be happy to provide you with more information upon request.

U S WEST was the first ILEC in the country to implement line sharing, especially in the State of Minnesota, which has been quite active in analyzing the line sharing issue. Since October of 1999, almost two months prior to the FCC's line sharing mandate, U S WEST and various data CLECs have been participating in a collaborative work effort focused on planning and implementing line sharing in the most timely, efficient, and effective way possible. Unlike other UNEs that are provided to and used by a single LEC, the line sharing UNE (the high frequency portion of the local loop) is shared by two LECs, U S WEST and a CLEC. Due to the complexity of offering the high frequency portion of the spectrum as an unbundled network element (UNE), it was (and still is) imperative that U S WEST work with any interested data CLECs while planning for the implementation of line sharing.



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The need for cooperation was particularly important in the area of Operations Support Systems (OSS). U S WEST's OSSs enable CLECs to perform all necessary pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance and repair, and billing functions associated with offering broadband data services over copper loops that U S WEST is using to provide voice services to end-user customers (i.e. shared lines). To modify its OSSs to support line sharing, U S WEST had to understand the CLECs' OSS needs. To do so, it was essential that the CLECs make their needs known to U S WEST. For this reason, U S WEST worked closely with interested CLECs to define the OSS modifications that were needed for the implementation of line sharing.

To that end, in October of 1999, U S WEST and interested data CLECs formed a collaborative OSS working group whose focus was to identify and plan for all the necessary OSS modifications required to implement line sharing. At regularly held meetings, the group developed the high level processes for line sharing and identified issues to be resolved related to those processes. The group assigned the task of resolving the identified issues to various individuals and/or sub-groups that worked on the issue during the week and reported back to the OSS group at the following meeting. The sub-groups addressed 1) the repair and maintenance flow; 2) the pre-qualification of loops for ADSL compatibility using U S WEST's pre-ordering system (IMA 4.2), design layout records (DLRs) and /or the results of mechanized loop tests; and 3) the technical configuration for deploying CLEC splitters in U S WEST central offices.

When identifying the OSS business requirements, the joint team spent a great deal of time identifying the data needs of the CLECs. U S WEST and the participating CLECs discussed the needs for pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, repairing, and billing functionality. The requirements were agreed to and documented.

Attachment A provides the detailed operations and maintenance processes utilized by CLECs and U S WEST employees. Attachment A also provides a detailed product definition.<sup>1</sup>

The negotiated interim line sharing solutions enabled U S WEST and CLECs to begin line sharing in the most timely manner possible. All interim line sharing solutions have been deployed and U S WEST has been line sharing with CLECs since January of 2000. The long-term line sharing OSS solutions, as agreed to by the U S WEST / CLEC joint team, are currently on target for deployment by December of 2000.

While U S WEST had not implemented all of the long-term OSS solutions by June 6, 2000, it has complied with the FCC's mandate that ILECs must have the "majority of systems modifications necessary to provide access to the higher frequency portion of the loop" deployed by June 6, 2000. The timeframe by which it has been deploying the interim line sharing solutions is based on CLECs' needs and was developed by the U S WEST /

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<sup>1</sup> Attachment A is confidential because it contains links to internal U S WEST websites.

CLEC joint team described above. The joint team agreed that a timely and efficient deployment of line sharing was most important to the CLECs, and as a result, the team agreed that the interim line sharing solutions were key to accommodating the CLECs' immediate needs.

U S WEST and CLECs have been working together to achieve line sharing throughout U S WEST's 14-state region. U S WEST, CLECs, and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MNPUC) met on March 21, 2000 to discuss the status of line sharing in the state of Minnesota, the first state in which U S WEST began line sharing. The primary purpose of this status meeting was for U S WEST and the CLECs to each provide an update the MNPUC on the deployment of line sharing. Both parties' reports were positive, stating that the deployment of line sharing was on time and going as planned. Each party also reported that the other was fulfilling its commitments as agreed upon.

In addition to the ongoing work in Minnesota, U S WEST and CLECs have been continually working together towards the deployment of line sharing in the other 13 states throughout U S WEST's region. Over the past few months U S WEST and CLECs successfully negotiated and signed an interim business agreement with each other for the deployment of line sharing throughout the remaining 13 states within U S WEST's region (an agreement in Minnesota had previously been reached). Copies of these agreements are attached as Attachments B and C.

The line sharing operational / implementation planning meetings have continued on an on-going basis working on refining repair processes and amending interconnection agreements. The joint team is also continuing to address other items such as general OSS issues, permanent loop rates, and service order processor (SOP) requirements as needed.

Line sharing implementation data demonstrates the following:

#### MINNESOTA

First Line Sharing Deployment:	1/10/00
First Shared Loop Customer Order:	1/10/00
All line sharing deployment completed:	3/31/00 (Total of 52 Central Offices)
Shared Loop Orders to Date:	28 (actual customer count, 26, as two orders were rejected to loop qualification difficulties)

#### OTHER THIRTEEN STATES

Current number of CLECs who signed interim line sharing agreements.	30 (13 original signors and 17 opt-ins)
First Line Sharing Deployment:	5/15/00
Deployment total to date:	159 Central Offices
Remaining common area deployment projected to be completed:	7/31/00

Mr. Lawrence A. Strickling  
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First Shared Loop Orders: Total of 350 Central Offices  
6/12/00

In terms of procedures, we attach as Attachment D a copy of the U S WEST line sharing Methods and Procedures for the State of Minnesota. This document, which is typical of the procedures which U S WEST has implemented across its region, demonstrates how U S WEST processes line sharing orders internally, and gives a good insight into what occurs within U S WEST once a customer has asked for service which entails line sharing.

As you can see, U S WEST has established extensive and meaningful processes, procedures and facilities for implementation of line sharing. In Minnesota alone, the cost was approximately \$1.7 million. Although line sharing has been available in Minnesota since January of this year, we have processed orders for only 26 line sharing customers. If this low take rate continues, U S WEST will be hard pressed to recover its line sharing implementation costs from the cost causing entities, as the \$1.7 Million spent in Minnesota for line sharing implementation would, if spread among 26 customers, result in a cost of \$65,400 for each customer.

I hope that this letter provides you with the information you need. Please do not hesitate to call me with additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Newman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Melissa Newman  
Enclosures

ATTACHMENT A

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**NOT FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

## INTERIM LINE SHARING AGREEMENT

This Interim Line Sharing Agreement ("Agreement") between U S WEST Communications, Inc. ("ILEC") and @Link Networks, Inc., Arrival Communications, Inc., BridgeBand Communications, Inc., CDS Networks, Inc., Contact Communications, DIECA Communications, Inc. d/b/a Covad Communications Company, Jato Communications Corp. on behalf of its operating subsidiaries Jato Operating Corp. and Jato Operating Two Corp., Montana Wireless, Inc., MULTIBAND Communications, Inc., New Edge Network, Inc. d/b/a New Edge Networks, NorthPoint Communications, Inc., RHYTHMS LINKS, INC., and Western Telephone Integrated Communications, Inc. ("CLEC" or "CLECs") is entered into this 24th day of April, 2000, to govern deployment of line sharing in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The Agreement is effective as of the date referenced in the preceding sentence and will terminate on a state-by-state, CLEC-by-CLEC basis when line sharing amendments to the interconnection agreements between ILEC and CLECs are approved by the relevant state public utility commissions as required by paragraph 36 below. ILEC and CLECs are referred to in this Agreement individually as a "Party" or collectively as the "Parties."

### GENERAL

1. ILEC will provide CLEC with access to the frequency range above the voiceband on a copper loop facility used to carry analog circuit-switched voiceband transmissions. This frequency range will be referred to in this document as the "high frequency spectrum network element" or "HUNE". CLEC may use this access to provision any voice compatible xDSL technologies. Specifically permissible are ADSL, RADSL, G.lite and any other xDSL technology that is presumed to be acceptable for shared line deployment in accordance with FCC rules. Under this Agreement, "line sharing" is defined as the situation that exists when the CLEC has access to the HUNE and provides xDSL services on a loop that also carries ILEC POTS.
2. To order the HUNE, a CLEC must have a POTS splitter installed in the central office that serves the end-user of the loop. In addition, the CLEC must provide the end-user with, and is responsible for the installation of, a splitter, filter(s) and/or other equipment necessary for the end-user to receive separate voice and data services across the loop.
3. On or before June 6, 2000, ILEC will begin accepting orders for the HUNE on lines served out of every central office where CLEC has a POTS splitter installed.
4. Prior to July 31, 2000, the CLECs will not request conditioning of shared lines to remove load coils, bridged taps or electronics. If ILEC begins conditioning lines for its xDSL services, CLECs will have the same option. By July 31, 2000,

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unless another date is agreed to by ILEC and CLEC in writing, the CLEC will be able to request conditioning of a shared line. ILEC will perform requested conditioning, including de-loading and removal of excess bridged taps, unless ILEC demonstrates in advance that conditioning that shared line will significantly degrade the end-user's analog voice service.

5. The CLECs initially will use ILEC's existing pre-qualification functionality and order processes to pre-qualify lines and order the HUNE. The CLECs will determine, in their sole discretion and at their risk, whether to order the HUNE across any specific loop. ILEC and the CLECs will continue to work together to modify these functionalities and processes to better support line sharing.
6. ILEC will initially provision the HUNE within the current standard unbundled loop provisioning interval at least 90% of the time. The Parties acknowledge that this interval may be subject to improvement based on systems mechanization and/or relevant state or federal regulatory orders.

#### POTS SPLITTER COLLOCATION AND OPERATION OF LINE SHARING EQUIPMENT

7. ILEC will provide CLEC with access to the shared line in one of the following ways, at the discretion of CLEC:
  - (a) CLEC may place POTS splitters in ILEC central offices via Common Area Splitter Collocation. In this scenario, CLEC will have the option to either purchase the POTS splitter of its choosing or to have ILEC purchase the POTS splitter on the CLEC's behalf subject to full reimbursement. The CLEC will lease the POTS splitter to ILEC at no cost. Subject to agreed to or ordered pricing, ILEC will install and maintain the POTS splitter in the central office. ILEC will install the POTS splitter in one of three locations in the central office: (i) in a relay rack as close to the CLEC DSO termination points as possible; (ii) where an intermediate frame is used, on that frame; or (iii) where options (i) or (ii) are not available, or in central offices with network access line counts of less than 10,000, on the main distribution frame or in some other appropriate location, which may include an existing ILEC relay rack or bay.
  - (b) CLEC may, at its option, place the POTS splitters in its own collocation area. ILEC will reclassify TIE cables, re-stencil framing, and perform any related work required to provision line sharing.
  - (c) Under either option (a) or (b), the POTS splitter will be appropriately hard wired or pre-wired so that ILEC is required to inventory no more than two points of termination.
8. In the event CLEC, or ILEC acting as purchasing agent for CLEC, is unable to procure line sharing equipment (i.e., POTS splitters, cabling, etc.) for Common Area Splitter Collocation in a timely manner, ILEC will proceed with the line

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sharing deployment schedules set forth in paragraphs 12 and 13 below and install the delayed equipment once the deployment for the subject state is completed. If the delayed equipment still is not available once the deployment for the subject state is completed, ILEC and CLEC will work together to establish an alternate deployment schedule for the affected central offices.

- (a) If the ILEC, acting as purchasing agent for the CLEC, is unable to procure line sharing equipment for Common Area Splitter Collocation in a timely manner, then the CLEC may provide ILEC with the missing equipment. However, the deployment schedules set forth in this Agreement may be impacted. If impacted, the deployment will follow the terms and conditions described above.
  - (b) If ILEC is acting as purchasing agent for more than one CLEC in a central office and is unable to procure line sharing equipment for one or more of the CLECs in a timely manner, then none of the CLECs using the ILEC as purchasing agent will be able to order the HUNE in that central office until the equipment is installed for all such CLECs. This requirement does not apply to a CLEC that, upon being contacted by the ILEC of the equipment shortage, provides its own equipment to ILEC for installation. The CLEC will be notified by the ILEC of the required material on-site date for that central office and will have 2 business days to determine if the CLEC will be able to provide its own equipment.
9. CLEC and ILEC may use any POTS splitter that meets the requirements for central office equipment collocation set by the FCC in its March 31, 1999 order in CC Docket No. 98-147. x
  10. If a CLEC requests that a central office where it is not currently collocated be provisioned for line sharing, the CLEC will indicate its request on the collocation application for that central office.
  11. CLEC will provide ILEC with applications for placement of POTS splitters in central offices based on the order set forth on the confidential Central Office Deployment List agreed to jointly by the CLECs and the ILEC and on the schedule set forth below. If the application date is missed by any CLEC, ILEC will accept the CLEC's late applications and install the POTS splitter within 30 days of the end of the schedule for the state where the central office is located or the normal interval for collocation under the CLEC's interconnection agreement, whichever is later. ILEC and CLEC will work together to resolve any problems with order-related data included on the applications within 5 business days of the CLEC receiving notification of the problems from ILEC. If the Parties are unable to resolve the problems after 5 business days, the application will be treated as a late application as defined above. Any changes received from

the CLEC after 5 business days of the initial application date will also result in the application be treated as a late application.

- First 145 Central Offices                      March 24, 2000
- Next 85 Central Offices                        March 29, 2000
- Next 65 Central Offices                        April 3, 2000
- Remaining Central Offices                    April 10, 2000

12. Assuming CLEC reuses existing TIE cable capacity, ILEC will complete the TIE cable reclassification necessary to permit a CLEC to complete placement of POTS spliners in its own collocation areas in the central offices identified on the Central Office Deployment List based on the following schedule:

DATE	TOTAL NUMBER OF CUMULATIVE CENTRAL OFFICES
May 15, 2000	40-50
May 29, 2000	130-150
June 6, 2000	All remaining central offices identified on the Central Office Deployment List

Additional TIE cables will be installed in accordance with the standard intervals and processes set forth in the interconnection agreements between ILEC and CLECs at the completion of this deployment schedule or under an installation schedule mutually agreed upon by CLEC and ILEC. In situations where a CLEC places POTS spliners in its collocation areas, CLEC may begin placing orders for the HUNE in the central offices identified on the Central Office Deployment List in accordance with the above schedule.

13. ILEC will complete Common Area Spliner Collocation in the central offices identified on the Central Office Deployment List based on the following schedule:

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17. Beginning on April 1, 2000, the CLECs will provide ILEC with non-binding, good-faith rolling quarterly forecasts for shared line volumes on a state-by-state, central office-by-central office basis. Additionally, CLEC will provide a 1.5 year non-binding, good-faith forecast by quarter to ILEC by June 1, 2000. ILEC will keep CLEC forecasts confidential and will not share such forecasts with any person involved in ILEC retail operations, product planning or marketing.

#### REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

18. ILEC will allow the CLECs to access the combined voice and data line at the point where it is cross-connected to the POTS splitter. Under the scenario described in paragraph 7(a) above, the point of demarcation will be at the place where the data loop leaves the POTS splitter on its way to the CLEC's collocated equipment. Under the scenario described in paragraph 7(b) above, the point of demarcation will be where the shared line is cross-connected to the POTS splitter.
19. ILEC will be responsible for repairing voice services provided over the shared line and the physical line between the network interface device at the end-user premise and the point of demarcation in the central office. ILEC also will be responsible for inside wiring in accordance with the terms and conditions of inside wire maintenance agreements, if any, between ILEC and the end-users. CLECs will be responsible for repairing data services provided over the HUNE portion of the shared line. Each Party will be responsible for maintaining its own equipment. The Party that controls the POTS splitter will be responsible for maintaining it.
20. ILEC and CLEC are continuing to develop repair and maintenance procedures and agree to document final agreed-to procedures in a methods and procedures document that will be available on ILEC's web site. In the interim, ILEC and CLEC agree that the following general principles will guide the repair and maintenance process:
- (a) If an end-user complains of a voice problem that may be related to the use of the shared line for data services, CLEC and ILEC will work together and with the end-user to solve the problem to the satisfaction of the end-user. ILEC will not disconnect the data service without the written permission of the CLEC unless the end-user's voice service is so degraded that the end-user cannot originate or receive voice grade calls.
  - (b) Each Party is responsible for its own end-user base and will have the responsibility for resolution of any service trouble report(s) from its end-users. ILEC will test for electrical faults (i.e., opens, shorts, and/or foreign voltage) on the shared line in response to trouble tickets initiated by the CLEC.
  - (c) When trouble has been reported by CLEC, and such trouble is not an electrical fault in ILEC's network, ILEC will charge CLEC any applicable charges approved by the relevant state public utility commission.

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- (d) When trouble reported by CLEC is not isolated or identified by tests for electrical faults, ILEC may perform additional testing as requested by CLEC on a case-by-case basis. If this additional testing uncovers electrical fault trouble in the portion of the network for which the ILEC is responsible under this Agreement, the CLEC will not be charged for the testing. If the additional testing uncovers a problem in the portion of the network for which the CLEC is responsible under this Agreement, the CLEC will be charged any applicable charges set forth in interconnection agreements between ILEC and CLECs or by the relevant state public utility commissions. Where no such charges exist, CLEC will pay for such testing on a time and materials basis.
- 21. When the POTS splitter is placed in the central office via Common Area Splitter Collocation, CLEC will order and install additional splitter cards as necessary to increase POTS splitter capacity from the initial installation. CLEC will leave one empty card in every shelf to be used for repair and maintenance until such time as the card must be used to fill the shelf to capacity.
- 22. When the POTS splitter is located in the CLEC collocation area, CLEC may install test access equipment in its collocation area for the purpose of testing the shared line. This equipment must comply with the safety requirements set forth in any applicable FCC rules. When the POTS splitter is placed in the central office via Common Area Splitter Collocation, CLEC will have the ability to perform intrusive testing at the test access point on a line-by-line basis.

**PRICING**

- 23. ILEC and the CLECs agree to the following negotiated, interim prices for shared lines, splitter collocation and other elements noted in the following table:

Category	Element	Interim Price
Shared Line Non-Recurring	Installation option is basic installation - lift and lay	IA* price for basic installation - lift and lay
Shared Line Recurring	HUNE	Paragraph 25
	2 ITP/EICT - Interconnection Tie Pairs or Expanded Interconnection Channel Terminations	IA price
Common Area Splitter Collocation Non-Recurring	Installation	\$5,000.00 per shelf
Common Area Splitter Collocation Recurring	Equipment bay - per shelf	\$4.85 per shelf
Cost of POTS splitters if provided by ILEC	POTS splitter	Market cost - in addition to the \$5,000.00 flat rate
Non-recurring for TIE cable reclassification	TIE cables	Time and material for engineering and labor
Repair and Maintenance	Trouble Isolation and Additional Testing	Paragraph 20 (c) and (d)

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Line Conditioning	Load Coil and Excess Bridged Tap Removal	LA price
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\* The relevant interconnection agreement between ILEC and CLEC.

24. ILEC and CLECs will continue work to arrive at appropriate cost recovery for operational support systems upgrades related to the shared line.
25. CLECs may choose from either of the following options for an interim recurring shared line rate:
- (a) A rate of \$5.40 per month per shared line; or
- (b) A rate of \$0 per month per shared line until January 1, 2001. On January 1, 2001, the interim recurring shared line rate will change to \$8.25 unless ILEC continues to charge a rate of \$0 per month per shared line to one or more CLECs as of that date. In the event ILEC continues to charge a rate of \$0 per month per shared line to one or more CLECs as of January 1, 2001, ILEC will continue to charge all CLECs that selected this interim recurring shared line rate option a rate of \$0 per month per shared line until such time as it begins to charge all CLECs \$8.25 per month per shared line.

CLECs must select one of the foregoing options for an interim recurring shared line rate by May 1, 2000, and must notify ILEC of their selection through their account teams. Once a selection is made, a CLEC cannot change its selection.

26. All interim prices will be subject to true up based on either mutually agreed to permanent pricing or permanent pricing established in a line sharing cost proceeding conducted by state public utility commissions. In the event interim prices are established by state public utility commissions before permanent prices are established, either through arbitration or some other mechanism, the interim prices established in this Agreement will be changed to reflect the interim prices mandated by the state public utility commissions; however, no true up will be performed until mutually agreed to permanent prices are established or permanent prices are established by state public utility commissions.
27. During the 60 day period immediately following the effective date of this Agreement, the Parties agree to negotiate in good faith in an effort to arrive at mutually agreed to permanent pricing for all of the elements listed in paragraph 23 above and operational support system upgrades related to line sharing. If at the conclusion of this 60 day period, the Parties have been unable to mutually agree to permanent pricing for some or all of such elements and/or operational support system upgrades related to line sharing, the Parties agree to ask the state public utility commissions for each of the states listed in the introductory paragraph of this Agreement to initiate a line sharing cost proceeding to establish permanent pricing for all elements, potentially including operational support system upgrades related to line sharing, still in dispute at that time.

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28. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties and supersedes all prior oral or written agreements, representations, statements, negotiations, understandings, proposals, and undertakings with respect to the subject matter hereof.
29. ILEC and CLEC enter into this Agreement without waiving current or future relevant legal rights and without prejudicing any position ILEC or CLEC may take on relevant issues before state or federal regulatory or legislative bodies or courts of competent jurisdiction. This clause specifically contemplates but is not limited to: (a) the positions ILEC or CLEC may take in any cost docket related to the terms and conditions of line sharing; and (b) the positions that ILEC or CLEC might take before the FCC or any state public utility commission related to the terms and conditions under which ILEC must provide CLEC with access to the HUNE.
30. The provisions in this Agreement are based, in large part, on the existing state of applicable law, rules, and regulations ("Existing Rules"). Among the Existing Rules are certain FCC orders, including the FCC's Third Report and Order in CC Docket No. 98-147 and Fourth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-98 released on December 9, 1999, which currently are being challenged. To the extent the Existing Rules are changed, vacated, dismissed, stayed or modified, the Parties shall amend this Agreement to reflect such change, vacation, dismissal, stay, or modification. Where the Parties fail to agree upon such an amendment, all disputed issues will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution provisions of the interconnection agreements between ILEC and CLECs incorporated by reference into this Agreement.
31. In addition to those provisions specifically referenced elsewhere in this Agreement, the provisions in the interconnection agreements between ILEC and CLECs related to the following are incorporated by reference into this Agreement: (a) limitation of liability; (b) indemnification; (c) force majeure; (d) warranties; and (e) dispute resolution. These provisions are incorporated on a state-by-state, CLEC-by-CLEC basis.
32. This Agreement is the joint work product of the Parties, has been negotiated by the Parties and shall be interpreted fairly in accordance with its terms and conditions. In the event of any ambiguities, no inferences shall be drawn against any Party.
33. This Agreement only may be amended in writing executed by all Parties to be bound by the amendment.
34. During the term of this Agreement, if ILEC either (a) enters into an agreement with any Party that modifies the rates, terms, and conditions of this Agreement as applied to that Party, or (b) enters into any other agreement for line sharing with any party containing rates, terms, and conditions different from those in this

Agreement, ILEC will make such modified or different rates, terms, and conditions available to any interested Party. To the extent the modified or different rates, terms, and conditions are provided by ILEC only in certain locations or pursuant to some other limitation, then the modified or different rates, terms, and conditions only will be made available to interested Parties in those locations or subject to those same limitations. Unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties, this paragraph will not be incorporated into any interconnection agreement amendments entered into between ILEC and CLECs pursuant to paragraph 36 below.

35. This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which shall together constitute but one and the same document. This Agreement may be executed where indicated below either by an original signature of a duly authorized representative of each Party or by a facsimile of such a signature.
36. ILEC and CLECs acknowledge the need to execute amendments to their interconnection agreements by June 6, 2000, to govern line sharing. The Parties further acknowledge that the rates, terms, and conditions of this Agreement will form the basis for the negotiation of the amendment. This Agreement will terminate upon execution of such amendments and will be replaced by the amendments. ILEC and CLEC further agree that any applicable window for petitioning a state public utility commission for arbitration of an interconnection agreement amendment for line sharing that would expire before June 6, 2000 is extended to June 16, 2000.
37. The Parties will work together to schedule a conference call with the state public utility commissions for each state listed in the introductory paragraph to this Agreement to explain this Agreement and answer any questions related to the Agreement. The Parties agree to work together to schedule and provide notice of the call in the most efficient and expeditious manner possible. The Parties further agree to respond to any questions or information requests from state public utility commissions in a joint manner and, in so doing, take all reasonable steps to preserve the confidentiality of the Central Office Deployment List.
38. The Parties will work together in good faith to address any problems that may arise in the execution of any part of this Agreement.
39. Any CLEC that is not a party to this Agreement may opt into this Agreement at any time prior to its expiration. CLECs must notify ILEC of which of the two options for interim shared line rates outlined in paragraph 25 above it selects at the time it opts into this Agreement or by May 1, 2000, whichever is later.

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FROM LITIGATION SUPPORT

TO: 913032956973

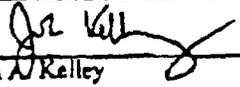
P: 10/21

(FRI) 4. 21 '00 17:10/ST. 17:05/NO. 4861183676 P 14

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U S WEST, Inc.

@Link Networks, Inc.

	
John A. Kelley	Tim O'Neill
President - Wholesale Markets	Chief Network Officer
Date 4/21/00	Date 4/21/00

Arrival Communications, Inc.

BridgeBand Communications, Inc.

Kevin Timpane	Jon M. Hesse
Vice President - Policy and Carrier Management	Chief Operating Officer and In-House Counsel
Date	Date

CDS Networks, Inc.

Contact Communications

Cleve Tooker	Arlen Tuggan
President	Vice President
Date	Date

DIECA Communications, Inc.

Jato Communications Corp.

Timothy Lachy	Patrick M. Greene
Chief Financial Officer	Vice President - Carrier Relations
Date	Date

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U S WEST, Inc.

@Link Networks, Inc.

		
John A. Kelley		Tim O'Neill
President - Wholesale Markets		Chief Network Officer
Date 4/21/00		Date

Arrival Communications, Inc.

BridgeBand Communications, Inc.

		
Kevin Timpane		Jon M. House
Vice President - Policy and Carrier Management		Chief Operating Officer and In-House Counsel
Date 4/22/00		Date

CDS Networks, Inc.

Contact Communications

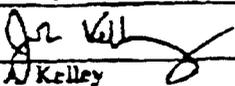
Cleve Tooker		Arlen Taggart
President		Vice President
Date		Date

DYECA Communications, Inc.

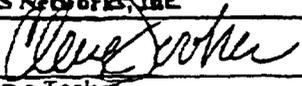
Jato Communications Corp.

Timothy Lachy		Patrick M. Greene
Chief Financial Officer		Vice President - Carrier Relations
Date		Date

Interim Line Sharing Agreement  
 Page 11 of 12

U S WEST, Inc.		@Link Networks, Inc.
		
John A. Kelley		Tim O'Neill
President - Wholesale Markets		Chief Network Officer
Date 4/21/00		Date

Arrival Communications, Inc.		BridgeBand Communications, Inc.
Kevin Timpana		Jon M. Hesse
Vice President - Policy and Carrier Management		Chief Operating Officer and In-House Counsel
Date		Date

CDS Networks, Inc.		Contact Communications
		
Cleve Tooker		Arlen Taggart
President		Vice President
Date 04 24 2000		Date

DIECA Communications, Inc.		Jato Communications Corp.
Timothy Lachy		Patrick M. Greene
Chief Financial Officer		Vice President - Carrier Relations
Date		Date

Received Event (Event Succeeded)

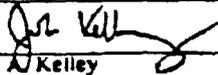
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 Pages: 23

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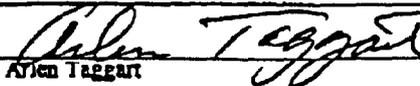
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Interim Line Sharing Agreement  
 Page 11 of 12

U S WEST, Inc.		@Link Networks, Inc.	
			
John A. Kelley		Tim O'Neill	
President - Wholesale Markets		Chief Network Officer	
Date		Date	
4/21/00			

Arrival Communications, Inc.		BridgeBand Communications, Inc.	
Kevin Timpane		Jon M. Hesse	
Vice President - Policy and Carrier Management		Chief Operating Officer and In-House Counsel	
Date		Date	

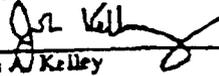
CDS Networks, Inc.		Contact Communications	
Cleve Tooker			
President		Arlen Taggart	
		Vice President	
Date		Date	
		April 24, 2000	

DIECA Communications, Inc.		Jato Communications Corp.	
Timothy Lachy		Patrick M. Greene	
Chief Financial Officer		Vice President - Carrier Relations	
Date		Date	

Interim Line Sharing Agreement  
Page 11 of 12

U S WEST, Inc.

@Link Networks, Inc.

		
John A. Kelley		Tim O'Neill
President - Wholesale Markets		Chief Network Officer
Date 4/21/00		Date

Arrival Communications, Inc.

BridgeBand Communications, Inc.

Kevin Tompane		Jon M. Heise
Vice President - Policy and Carrier Management		Chief Operating Officer and In-House Counsel
Date		Date

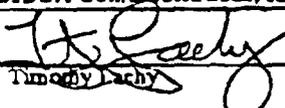
CDS Networks, Inc.

Contact Communications

Cleve Tooker		Arica Taggart
President		Vice President
Date		Date

DIECA Communications, Inc.

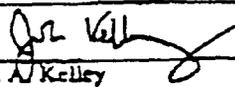
Jato Communications Corp.

		
Timothy Lachy		Patrick M. Greene
Chief Financial Officer		Vice President - Carrier Relations
Date 4/21/00		Date

Interim Line Sharing Agreement  
 Page 11 of 12

U S WEST, Inc.

@Link Networks, Inc.

		
John A. Kelley		Tim O'Neill
President - Wholesale Markets		Chief Network Officer
Date 4/21/00		Date

Arrival Communications, Inc.

BridgeBand Communications, Inc.

Kevin Timpane		Jon M. Hesse
Vice President - Policy and Carrier Management		Chief Operating Officer and In-House Counsel
Date		Date

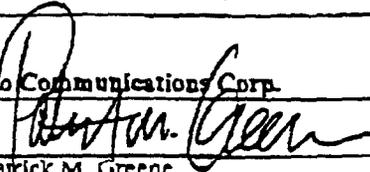
CDS Networks, Inc.

Contact Communications

Cleve Tooker		Arien Taggart
President		Vice President
Date		Date

DIECA Communications, Inc.

Jatu Communications Corp.

		
Timothy Leahy		Patrick M. Greene
Chief Financial Officer		Vice President - Carrier Relations
Date		Date 4/24/00

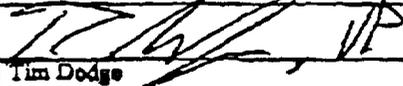
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Interim Line Sharing Agreement  
Page 12 of 12

**Montana Wireless, Inc.**

**MULTIBAND Communications, Inc.**

		
Joan Mandeville		Tim Dodge
Vice President - Administration		Executive Vice President
Date		Date 4-24-00

**New Edge Network, Inc.**

**NorthPoint Communications, Inc.**

Robert Y. McMillin		Steve Gorosh
Director - Interconnection		Vice President and General Counsel
Date		Date

**RHYTHMS LINKS, INC.**

**Western Telephone Integrated Communications, Inc.**

Eric Geis		Cleve Tucker
Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Deployment		President
Date		Date

Interim Line Sharing Agreement  
Page 12 of 12

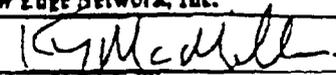
**Montana Wireless, Inc.**

**MULTIBAND Communications, Inc.**

Joan Mandeville	Tim Dodge
Vice President - Administration	Executive Vice President
Date	Date

**New Edge Network, Inc.**

**NorthPoint Communications, Inc.**

	
Robert Y. McMullin	Steve Gorosh
Director - Interconnection	Vice President and General Counsel
Date 4/24/00	Date

**RHYTHMS LINKS, INC.**

**Western Telephone Integrated Communications, Inc.**

Eric Gou	Cleve Tooker
Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Deployment	President
Date	Date

FROM LITIGATION SUPPORT

(MON) 4. 24' 00 9:29/ST. 9:23/NO. 4661183689 P 16

Interim Line Sharing Agreement  
Page 12 of 12

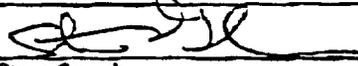
Montana Wireless, Inc.

MULTIBAND Communications, Inc.

Joan Mandeville	Tim Dodge
Vice President - Administration	Executive Vice President
Date	Date

New Edge Network, Inc.

NorthPoint Communications, Inc.

	
Robert Y. McMillin	Steve Gorosh
Director - Interconnection	Vice President and General Counsel
Date	Date April 24, 2000

RHYTHMS LINKS, INC.

Western Telephone Integrated  
Communications, Inc.

Eric Geis	Cleve Tooker
Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Deployment	President
Date	Date

APR-24-2000 MON 10:32 AM

FAX NO.

P. 12

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Page: 35 of 43

Apr-21-00 17:49 From: US WEST LAW DEPT

3032956973

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Interim Line Sharing Agreement  
Page 12 of 12

Montana Wireless, Inc.

MULTIBAND Communications, Inc.

Joan Mandeville		Tim Dodge
Vice President - Administration		Executive Vice President
Date		Date

New Edge Network, Inc.

NorthPoint Communications, Inc.

Robert Y. McMillin		Steve Gorosh
Director - Interconnection		Vice President and General Counsel
Date		Date

RHYTHMS LINKS, INC.

Western Telephone Integrated  
Communications, Inc.

<i>J. Scott Bonney</i>		
<del>Eric</del> <i>J. Scott Bonney</i>		Cleve Tooker
Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Deployment		President
Date <i>4/24/00</i>		Date

by:

541 608 9500;

04/24/00 12:23; Jettax #577; Page 12/12

Interim Line Sharing Agreement  
Page 12 of 12

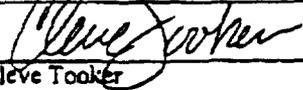
Executive Vice President		Director - Interconnection
Date		Date

NorthPoint Communications, Inc.

RHYTHMS LINKS, INC.

Steve Gorosh		Eric Geis
Vice President and General Counsel		Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Development
Date		Date

Western Telephone Integrated Communications, Inc.

		
Cleve Tooker		
President		
Date 04-24-2000		

**Whereas, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has initiated the above referenced docket to investigate the deployment of line sharing in Minnesota. The Commission has ordered U S WEST and certain CLECs to complete a technical trial to assess the feasibility of line sharing, along with negotiating other operational issues, and stated its intention to order U S WEST to implement line sharing in Minnesota.**

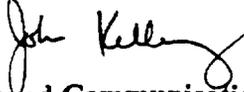
**Whereas, on November 19, 1999, the FCC voted to mandate line sharing by ILECs. As of the time of this agreement, the FCC had not released its written order mandating line sharing.**

**Whereas, U S WEST and, Covad Communications Company, NorthPoint Communications, Inc., Rhythms Links Inc., Sprint Communications Company L.P. and Onvoy, Inc. (the "parties") enter into this stipulated agreement ("stipulation" or "agreement") in response to the Commission investigation and the FCC's November 19 announcement.**

- 1. The parties hereby agree to the Terms and Conditions included in paragraphs 1 – 28 and Appendices A & B, attached hereto.**
- 2. The parties enter into this stipulation without prejudice to any position they may have taken previously, or may take in the future in any legislative, regulatory, administrative, legal or public forum, addressing any matters, including matters related to the types of arrangements prescribed by this stipulation. Nevertheless, the Parties shall fully honor and not appeal the terms of the stipulation, regardless of their respective advocacy positions subject to modification of this stipulation pursuant to a change in the law or a written modification agreed to by the parties to this stipulation.**
- 3. On or before July 1, 2000, U S WEST and the parties to this stipulation will collectively negotiate incorporation of the applicable terms of this stipulation into their respective interconnection agreements previously approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. This stipulation is limited in scope and application to line sharing issues in Minnesota and will terminate the later of July 31, 2000 or Commission approval of the amendment to the Interconnection Agreement.**
- 4. U S WEST's consent to this stipulation is contingent upon and subject to both of the following provisions: a) the Commission approving this stipulation without modification; b) the Commission not taking any other action with respect to U S WEST, including but not limited to imposing fines or penalties, for activities of U S WEST relating to line sharing and prior to the effective date of this stipulation. If the Commission rejects or in any way modifies this stipulation or if the Commission imposes any fine or penalty on U S WEST for actions prior to the effective date of this stipulation, this stipulation will become null and void and will not be used, referred to or identified in any legislative, regulatory, administrative, legal or public forum.**
- 5. Other parties may execute and opt into this stipulation, any time prior to the expiration of this stipulation. Any party that opts into this stipulation after December 15,**

1999 of this stipulation will be required to negotiate all of the timeframes included in the stipulation on an individual case basis and subject to not delaying or interfering with U S WEST's ability to comply with the timeframes included in this original stipulation. CLECs may opt into this agreement prior December 15, 1999 and remain subject to the terms and timeframes within this stipulation.

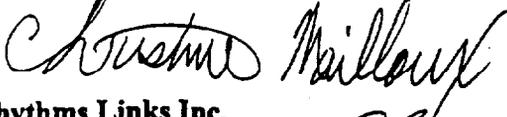
**U S WEST Communications, Inc.**



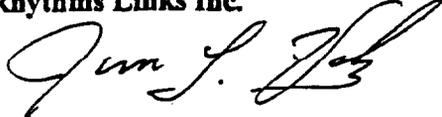
**Covad Communications Company**



**NorthPoint Communications, Inc.**



**Rhythms Links Inc.**



**Sprint Communications Company L.P.**



**Onvoy, Inc.**

