

**UNE-P Line Splitting Amendment
to the Interconnection Agreement between
Qwest Corporation and
Z-Tel Communications, Inc.
for the State of North Dakota**

This is an Amendment ("Amendment") for UNE-P Line Splitting to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation ("Qwest"), formerly known as U S WEST Communications, Inc., a Colorado corporation, and Z-Tel Communications, Inc. ("CLEC"). CLEC and Qwest shall be known jointly as the ("Parties").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, CLEC and Qwest entered into an Interconnection Agreement ("Agreement") for service in the state of North Dakota which was approved by the North Dakota Public Service Commission ("Commission") on August 8, 2001 as referenced in Case No. PU 2568-01-314; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to amend the Agreement further under the terms and conditions contained herein.

AGREEMENT

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual terms, covenants and conditions contained in this Amendment and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

Amendment Terms

The Agreement is hereby amended by adding terms, conditions and rates for UNE-P Line Splitting as set forth in Attachment 1 and Exhibit A, to this Amendment, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

Rates in Exhibit A will reflect legally binding decisions of the Commission and shall be applied on a prospective basis from the effective date of the legally binding Commission decision, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

Effective Date

This Amendment shall be deemed effective upon approval by the Commission; however, the Parties may agree to implement the provisions of this Amendment upon execution. To accommodate this need, CLEC must generate, if necessary, an updated Customer Questionnaire. In addition to the Questionnaire, all system updates will need to be completed by Qwest. CLEC will be notified when all system changes have been made. Actual order processing may begin once these requirements have been met.

Further Amendments

Except as modified herein, the provisions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect. The provisions of this Amendment, including the provisions of this sentence, may not be amended, modified or supplemented, and waivers or consents to departures from the provisions

of this Amendment may not be given without the written consent thereto by both Parties' authorized representative. No waiver by any Party of any default, misrepresentation, or breach of warranty or covenant hereunder, whether intentional or not, will be deemed to extend to any prior or subsequent default, misrepresentation, or breach of warranty or covenant hereunder or affect in any way any rights arising by virtue of any prior or subsequent such occurrence.

Change of Law

A. The provisions in this Amendment are intended to be in compliance with and based on the existing state of the law, rules, regulations and interpretations thereof, including but not limited to state rules, regulations, and laws, as of April 1, 2003 (the Existing Rules). Nothing in this Amendment shall be deemed an admission by Qwest or CLEC concerning the interpretation or effect of the Existing Rules or an admission by Qwest or CLEC that the Existing Rules should not be changed, vacated, dismissed, stayed or modified. Nothing in this Amendment shall preclude or estop Qwest or CLEC from taking any position in any forum concerning the proper interpretation or effect of the Existing Rules or concerning whether the Existing Rules should be changed, vacated, dismissed, stayed or modified. To the extent that the Existing Rules are vacated, dismissed, stayed or materially changed or modified, then this Amendment shall be amended to reflect such legally binding modification or change of the Existing Rules. Where the Parties fail to agree upon such an amendment within sixty (60) Days after notification from a Party seeking amendment due to a modification or change of the Existing Rules or if any time during such sixty (60) Day period the Parties shall have ceased to negotiate such new terms for a continuous period of fifteen (15) Days, it shall be resolved in accordance with the Dispute Resolution provision of the Agreement. It is expressly understood that this Amendment will be corrected, or if requested by CLEC, amended as set forth herein, to reflect the outcome of generic proceedings by the Commission for pricing, service standards, or other matters covered by this Amendment. Any amendment shall be deemed effective on the effective date of the legally binding change or modification of the Existing Rules for rates, and to the extent practicable for other terms and conditions, unless otherwise ordered. During the pendency of any negotiation for an amendment pursuant to this Section, the Parties shall continue to perform their obligations in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Amendment, for up to sixty (60) Days. If the Parties fail to agree on an amendment during the sixty (60) Day negotiation period, the Parties agree that the first matter to be resolved during Dispute Resolution will be the implementation of an interim operating agreement between the Parties regarding the disputed issues, to be effective during the pendency of Dispute Resolution. The Parties agree that the interim operating agreement shall be determined and implemented within the first fifteen (15) Days of Dispute Resolution and the Parties will continue to perform their obligations in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Amendment, until the interim operating agreement is implemented. For purposes of this section, "legally binding" means that the legal ruling has not been stayed, no request for a stay is pending, and any deadline for requesting a stay designated by statute or regulation, has passed.

B. In addition to, but not in limitation of, Section A. above, nothing in this Amendment shall be deemed an admission by Qwest or CLEC concerning the interpretation or effect of the FCC's decision and rules adopted in *In the Matter of Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers; Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Deployment of Wireline Services Offering Advanced Telecommunications Capability*, CC Docket Nos. 01-338, 96-98 and 98-147, nor rules, regulations and interpretations thereof, including but not limited to state rules, regulations, and laws as they may be issued or promulgated regarding the same ("Decision(s)"). Nothing in this Amendment shall preclude or estop Qwest or CLEC from taking any position in any forum

concerning the proper interpretation or effect of Decisions or concerning whether the Decision should be changed, vacated, dismissed, stayed or modified.

Entire Agreement

This Amendment (including the documents referred to herein) constitutes the full and entire understanding and agreement between the Parties with regard to the subjects of this Amendment and supersedes any prior understandings, agreements, or representations by or between the Parties, written or oral, to the extent they relate in any way to the subjects of this Amendment.

The Parties intending to be legally bound have executed this Amendment as of the dates set forth below, in multiple counterparts, each of which is deemed an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.

Z-Tel Communications, Inc.



Signature

DON DAVIS

Name Printed/Typed


VP STRATEGY + INDUSTRY POLICY

Title

12/29/03

Date

Qwest Corporation



Signature

L. T. Christensen

Name Printed/Typed

Director - Business Policy

Title

1/2/04

Date

ATTACHMENT 1**9.21 UNE-P Line Splitting****9.21.1 Description**

Line Splitting provides CLEC/DLEC with the opportunity to offer advanced data service simultaneously with an existing UNE-P by using the frequency range above the voice band on the copper Loop. The advanced data service may be provided by the Customer of record or another data service provider chosen by the Customer of record. A POTS Splitter must be inserted into the UNE-P to accommodate establishment of the advanced data service. The POTS Splitter separates the voice and data traffic and allows the copper Loop to be used for simultaneous DLEC data transmission and CLEC provided voice service to the end user. "CLEC" will herein be referred to as the voice service provider while "DLEC" will be referred to as the advanced data service provider. CLEC and DLEC may be the same entity. Only one (1) Customer of record determined by the CLEC/DLEC partnership will be identified to Qwest.

9.21.2 Terms and Conditions**9.21.2.1 General**

9.21.2.1.1 The Customer of record will order the insertion of a POTS Splitter. Qwest is not responsible for providing the Splitter, filter(s) and/or other equipment necessary for the end user to receive separate voice and data service across a single copper Loop.

9.21.2.1.2 To order Line Splitting, CLEC/DLEC must have a POTS Splitter installed in the Qwest Wire Center that serves the end user. The POTS Splitter must meet the requirements for Central Office equipment Collocation set by the FCC or be compliant with ANSI T1.413.

9.21.2.1.3 CLEC/DLEC may provide any xDSL services that are compatible with CLEC UNE-P POTS service in accordance with ANSI T1.413 or IEEE 820 or other industry standards.

9.21.2.1.4 There may be only one DLEC at any given time that provides advanced data service on any given UNE-P.

9.21.2.1.5 The Customer of record will be able to request conditioning of the Unbundled Loop portion of the UNE-P. Qwest will perform requested conditioning of shared Loops to remove load coils and excess Bridged Taps. If CLEC requests conditioning and such conditioning significantly degrades the voice services on the Loop of the UNE-P to the point that it is unacceptable to CLEC, CLEC shall pay the conditioning rate set forth in Exhibit A to recondition the Loop.

9.21.2.1.6 POTS Splitters may be installed in Qwest Wire Centers in

either of the following ways at the discretion of CLEC/DLEC: (a) via the standard Collocation arrangements set forth in the Collocation Section; or (b) via Common Area Splitter Collocation as set forth in the Shared Loop Section of the Agreement. Under either option, POTS Splitters will be appropriately hard-wired or pre-wired so that Qwest is not required to inventory more than two (2) points of termination. For UNE-P Line Splitting, Qwest shall use the same number of Cross Connections and the same length of the tie pairs as it uses for Line Sharing.

9.21.2.1.7 Reserved for Future Use.

9.21.2.1.8 POTS Splitter Collocation requirements are covered in the Shared Loop Section of the Agreement.

9.21.3 Rate Elements

The following UNE-P Line Splitting rate elements are contained in Exhibit A of this Amendment.

9.21.3.1 Recurring Rates for UNE-P Line Splitting.

9.21.3.1.1 Interconnection TIE Pairs (ITP). A monthly recurring charge to recover the costs associated with the use of 2 ITPs, one for voice and one for voice/data.

9.21.3.1.2 OSS Charge – A monthly recurring charge to recover the cost of the OSS modifications necessary to provide access to the high frequency portion of the UNE-P Loop.

9.21.3.2 Nonrecurring Rates for the UNE-P Line Splitting

9.21.3.2.1 Basic Installation Charge for UNE-P Line Splitting – A nonrecurring charge for each UNE-P Line Splitting installed will apply.

9.21.3.2.2 Charge for conditioning Loop associated with UNE-P – A nonrecurring charge for either conditioning the Loop by removing load coils and/or excess Bridged Taps; or reconditioning the line if necessary to assure the quality of the voice service on the UNE-P.

9.21.3.3 Nonrecurring Rates for Maintenance and Repair

9.21.3.3.1 Trouble Isolation Charge – A nonrecurring charge for Trouble isolation will be applied in accordance with the Support Functions – Maintenance and Repair Section.

9.21.3.3.2 Additional Testing – The Customer of record may request Qwest to perform additional testing, and Qwest may decide to perform the requested testing on a case-by-case basis. A nonrecurring charge will apply in accordance with Exhibit A.

9.21.3.4 Rates for POTS Splitter Collocation are included in Exhibit A of this Amendment.

9.21.3.5 All of these rates are interim and will be subject to true-up based on either mutually agreed permanent rates or permanent rates established in a cost proceeding conducted by the Commission. In the event interim rates are established by the Commission before permanent rates are set, the interim rates set forth in Exhibit A will be changed to reflect the interim rates set by the Commission; however, no true up will be performed until mutually agreed to permanent rates are established or permanent rates are established by the Commission.

9.21.4 Ordering Process

9.21.4.1 UNE-P Line Splitting

9.21.4.1.1 As a part of the pre-order process, CLEC/DLEC may access Loop characteristic information through the Loop Information Tool described in the Support Functions Section. The Customer of record will determine, in its sole discretion and at its risk, whether to add data services to any specific UNE-P associated Loop.

9.21.4.1.2 The Customer of record will provide on the LSR, the appropriate frame terminations that are dedicated to POTS Splitters. Qwest will administer all cross connects/jumpers on the COSMIC/MDF and IDF.

9.21.4.1.3 Basic Installation "lift and lay" procedure will be used for all Line Splitting orders. Under this approach, a Qwest technician "lifts" the Loop from its current termination in a Qwest Wire Center and "lays" it on a new termination connecting to CLEC's/DLEC's collocated equipment in the same Wire Center.

9.21.4.1.4 The Customer of record shall not place orders for UNE-P Line Splitting until all work necessary to provision UNE-P Line Splitting in a given Qwest Wire Center, including, but not limited to, POTS Splitter installation and TIE Cable reclassification or augmentation has been completed.

9.21.4.1.5 If a Line Splitting LSR is placed to change from Line Sharing to UNE-P Line Splitting or to change the voice provider in a UNE-P Line Splitting arrangement and the data provider does not change or move Splitter location, the data service will not be interrupted.

9.21.4.1.6 The Customer of record shall submit the appropriate LSR's associated with establishing UNE-P and Line Splitting.

9.21.5 Billing

9.21.5.1 Qwest shall provide a bill to the Customer of record, on a monthly basis, within seven to ten (7-10) calendar Days of the last day of the most recent Billing period, in an agreed upon standard electronic Billing format, Billing information including (1) a summary bill, and (2) individual end user sub-account information consistent with the samples available for CLEC/DLEC review.

9.21.5.2 Qwest shall bill the Customer of record for all recurring and nonrecurring Line Splitting rate elements.

9.21.6 Repair and Maintenance

9.21.6.1 Qwest will allow CLEC/DLEC to access UNE-P Line Splitting at the point where the combined voice and data Loop is cross-connected to the POTS Splitter.

9.21.6.2 The Customer of record will be responsible for reporting to Qwest voice service troubles provided over UNE-P Line Splitting. Qwest will be responsible to repair troubles on the physical line between Network Interface Devices at the user premises and the point of demarcation in Qwest Wire Centers. CLEC/DLEC will be responsible for repairing data services provided on UNE-P Line Splitting. Qwest, CLEC and DLEC each will be responsible for maintaining its equipment. The entity that controls the POTS Splitters will be responsible for their maintenance.

9.21.6.3 Qwest, CLEC and DLEC will continue to develop repair and maintenance procedures for UNE-P Line Splitting and agree to document final agreed to procedures in a methods and procedures document that will be made available on Qwest's website:
<http://www.qwest.com/wholesale/productsservices/pcat/index.html>. In the interim, Qwest and CLEC/DLEC agree that the following general principles will guide the repair and maintenance process for UNE-P Line Splitting.

9.21.6.3.1 If an end user complains of a voice service problem that may be related to the use of an UNE-P for data services, Qwest and CLEC/DLEC will work together with the end user to solve the problem to the satisfaction of the end user. Qwest will not disconnect the data service without authorization from the Customer of record.

9.21.6.3.2 CLEC and DLEC are responsible for their respective end user base. CLEC/DLEC will have the responsibility for initiation and resolution of any service trouble report(s) initiated by their respective end users.

9.21.6.3.3 Qwest will test for electrical faults (e.g. opens, and/or foreign voltage) on UNE-P Line Splitting in response to trouble tickets initiated by CLEC. When trouble tickets are initiated by CLEC, and

such trouble is not an electrical fault (e.g. opens, shorts, and/or foreign voltage) in Qwest's network, Qwest will assess the Customer of record the TIC Charge.

9.21.6.3.4 When trouble reported by the Customer of record is not isolated or identified by tests for electrical faults (e.g. opens, shorts, and/or foreign voltage), Qwest may perform additional testing at the request of the Customer of record on a case-by-case basis. The Customer of record may request that Qwest perform additional testing and Qwest may decide not to perform requested testing where it believes, in good faith, that additional testing is unnecessary because the test requested has already been performed or otherwise duplicates the results of a previously performed test. In this case, Qwest will provide the Customer of record with the relevant test results on a case-by-case basis. If this additional testing uncovers electrical fault trouble (e.g. opens, shorts, and/or foreign voltage) in the portion of the network for which Qwest is responsible, the Customer of record will not be charged by Qwest for the testing. If this additional testing uncovers a problem in the portion of the network for which CLEC/DLEC is responsible, Qwest will assess the appropriate Miscellaneous Charge to the Customer of record.

9.21.6.4 When POTS Splitters are installed in Qwest Wire Centers via Common Area Splitter Collocation, CLEC/DLEC will order and install additional Splitter cards as necessary to increase the capacity of the POTS Splitters. CLEC/DLEC will leave one unused, spare Splitter 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.

9.21.6.5 When POTS Splitters are installed in Qwest Wire Centers via standard Collocation arrangements, CLEC/DLEC may install test access equipment in its Collocation areas in those Wire Centers for the purpose of testing UNE-P Line Splitting. This equipment must meet the requirements for Central Office equipment set by the FCC.

9.21.6.6 Qwest, CLEC and DLEC will work together to address end user initiated repair requests and to prevent adverse impacts to the end user.

9.21.7 Customer of Record and Authorized Agents

9.21.7.1 "Customer of record" is defined for purposes of this section as the CLEC that is the billed Customer for Line Splitting. The Customer of record may designate an authorized agent pursuant to the terms of sections 9.21.7.2 and 9.21.7.3 to perform ordering and/or Maintenance and Repair functions.

9.21.7.2 In order for the authorized agent of the Customer of record to perform ordering and/or Maintenance and Repair functions, the Customer of record must provide its authorized agent the necessary access and security devices, including but not limited to user identifications, digital certificates and

SecurID cards, that will allow the authorized agent to access the records of the Customer of record. Such access will be managed by the Customer of record.

9.21.7.3 The Customer of record shall hold Qwest harmless with regard to any harm to Customer of record as a direct and proximate result of the acts or omissions of the authorized agent of the Customer of record or any other person who has obtained from the Customer of record the necessary access and security devices through the Customer of record, including but not limited to user identifications, digital certificates and SecurID cards, that allow such person to access the records of the Customer of record unless such access and security devices were wrongfully obtained by such person through the willful or negligent behavior of Qwest.

**Exhibit A
North Dakota***

	Recurring	Nonrecurring	Notes
9.0 Unbundled Network Elements (UNEs)			
9.1 Interconnection Tie Pairs (ITP) – Per Termination			
DS0 2-wire	\$0.45		1
DS0 4-wire	\$1.32		1
DS1 Per each Termination	\$5.98		
DS3 Per each Termination	\$26.26		
9.2 Unbundled Loops		\$538.16	
Cable Unloading/Bridge Tap Removal			
9.3 Subloop		See MSC Charges	
9.3.5 Trouble Isolation Charge			
9.4 Line Sharing	\$3.49		1
9.4.2 OSS, per Order		ICB	3
9.4.3 Reclassification Charge	\$5.40	\$556.40	1
9.4.4 Splitter Shelf Charge			
9.4.5 Splitter TIE Cable Connections	\$7.39	\$3,321.82	1
Splitter in the Common Area - Data to 410 Block	\$7.75	\$3,486.28	1
Splitter in the Common Area - Data direct to CLEC	\$2.42	\$1,087.57	1
Splitter on the IDF - Data to 410 Block	\$5.19	\$2,335.64	1
Splitter on the IDF - Data direct to CLEC	\$2.35	\$1,057.26	1
Splitter on the MDF - Data to 410 Block	\$4.40	\$1,979.53	1
Splitter on the MDF - Data direct to CLEC			
9.20 Miscellaneous Charges			
* Per 1/2 hour or fraction thereof		\$33.16	1
* Additional Engineering – Basic		\$41.01	1
* Additional Engineering – Overtime		\$9.43	1
* Additional Labor Installation – Overtime		\$18.85	1
* Additional Labor Installation – Premium		\$28.90	1
* Additional Labor Other – Basic		\$38.60	1
* Additional Labor Other – Overtime		\$48.31	1
* Additional Labor Other – Premium		\$30.70	1
* Testing and Maintenance – Basic		\$41.01	1
* Testing and Maintenance – Overtime		\$51.31	1
* Testing and Maintenance – Premium		\$28.90	1
* Maintenance of Service – Basic		\$38.60	1
* Maintenance of Service – Overtime		\$48.31	1
* Maintenance of Service – Premium		\$30.70	1
* Additional COOP Acceptance Testing – Basic		\$41.01	1
* Additional COOP Acceptance Testing – Overtime		\$51.31	1
* Additional COOP Acceptance Testing – Premium		\$30.70	1
* NonScheduled COOP Testing - Basic		\$41.01	1
* NonScheduled COOP Testing – Overtime		\$51.31	1
* NonScheduled COOP Testing – Premium		\$30.70	1
* NonScheduled Manual Testing – Basic		\$41.01	1
* NonScheduled Manual Testing – Overtime		\$51.31	1
* NonScheduled Manual Testing – Premium	\$0.09		1
Cooperative Scheduled Testing – Loss	\$0.09		1
Cooperative Scheduled Testing – C-Message Noise	\$0.35		1
Cooperative Scheduled Testing – Balance	\$0.09		1
Cooperative Scheduled Testing – Gain Slope	\$0.09		1
Cooperative Scheduled Testing – C-Notched Noise	\$0.17		1
Manual Scheduled Testing – Loss	\$0.17		1
Manual Scheduled Testing – C-Message Noise	\$0.69		1
Manual Scheduled Testing – Balance	\$0.17		1
Manual Scheduled Testing – Gain Slope	\$0.17		1
Manual Scheduled Testing – C-Notched Noise		\$88.10	1
Additional Dispatch		\$10.83	1
Date Change		\$77.17	1
Design Change		ICB	3
Expedite Charge		ICB	3
Cancellation Charge			
9.23 UNE Combinations			
9.23.1 UNE - P Line Splitting		\$38.20	1
Basic Installation Charge for UNE-P Line Splitting			

NOTES:
 * Unless otherwise indicated, all rates are pursuant to the U S WEST and AT&T Interconnection Agreement approved by the North Dakota Public Utilities Commission in Docket Number PU-453-96-497, effective June 23, 1997.

- [1] Rates not addressed in AT&T Arbitration. (TELRIC)
- [3] ICB, Individual Case Basis pricing.