

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the)	
Development of Universal)	DOCKET NO. UT-011219
Terms and Conditions for)	
Interconnection and Network)	
Elements to be Provided by)	SIXTH SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER
)	GRANTING JOINT MOTION TO
)	AMEND PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE;
VERIZON NORTHWEST, INC.)	NOTICE OF PREHEARING
)	CONFERENCE
)	(May 2, 2003)
.....)	

1 **Proceeding.** This matter involves a request that the Commission direct Verizon to provide persons requesting interconnection agreements with Verizon some generally available terms, and that the Commission review the terms for compliance with pertinent law.

2 **Appearances.** W. Jeffery Edwards and Meredith B. Miles, attorneys, Richmond, Virginia, represent Verizon Northwest, Inc. (Verizon). Letty Friesen, attorney, Denver, Colorado represent AT&T Communications of the Pacific Northwest (AT&T). Gregory J. Kopta, attorney, Seattle, represents Fox Communications Corp. (Fox), Time Warner Telecom of Washington, LLC (Time Warner), and XO Washington, Inc. (XO), (collectively referred to as "CLECs"). Dennis D. Ahlers, attorney, Minneapolis, MN, represents Eschelon Telecom, Inc. (Eschelon). Michel Singer-Nelson, attorney, Denver, Colorado, represents WorldCom, Inc. (WorldCom). Karen Johnson, attorney, Beaverton, OR, represents Integra Telecom of Washington, Inc. Mary M. Tennyson, Senior Assistant Attorney General, represents Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Staff (Commission Staff).

3 **Memorandum:** On April 22, 2003, the parties to this proceeding filed a joint motion to amend the procedural schedule. The parties state that they are making progress in reaching a determination of the issues that remain in dispute, but that the negotiations are time consuming. In order to meet the June 6, 2003 deadline for submission of a statement of disputed issues, imposed by the agreed schedule of proceedings, the parties would have to stop negotiating and start

their preparations for litigation. Evidentiary hearings are now scheduled for September 2003. The parties indicate that allowing more time for negotiations would prove fruitful in terms of a shortened list of disputed issues as well as shortened hearing time. The parties propose that hearing be delayed until April, 2004.

4 The parties also request that Staff's role in the proceeding be clarified. The parties propose that Staff no longer attend or participate in negotiations, but rather review and evaluate the public interest ramifications of the language agreed upon by Verizon and the Joint CLECs. Verizon and the Joint CLECs should be responsible for developing and presenting a matrix of disputed issues presented to the Commission for resolution

5 **Decision.** Based on the parties' representations that they continue to be engaged in meaningful negotiations, and that such negotiations may lead to a shortened list of contested issues, the joint motion for an extension of the schedule is granted. A revised schedule of proceedings will be determined at the noticed prehearing conference.

6 The modification suggested for Commission Staff's role in the proceeding also appears reasonable, but will be further discussed at the prehearing conference so that the precise nature and scope of Staff's role will be clear to the Commission and the parties.

7 **Notice:** The existing schedule of proceedings is suspended. A revised schedule will be established at the prehearing conference that will take place at **9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 2, 2003.** Parties may attend the prehearing conference via the Commission's teleconference bridge (360-664-3846). If you appear via teleconference, you must appear five minutes before the time that the conference is scheduled to begin. The parties will also discuss the role of Commission Staff during the proceeding.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this ____ day of April 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

THEODORA M. MACE

Administrative Law Judge