



Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

ANCHORAGE BELLEVUE CHARLOTTE HONOLULU LOS ANGELES NEW YORK PORTLAND SAN FRANCISCO
SEATTLE WASHINGTON, D.C. SHANGHAI

GREGORY J. KOPTA
DIRECT: (206) 628-7692
gregkopta@dwt.com

2600 CENTURY SQUARE
1501 FOURTH AVENUE
SEATTLE, WA 98101-1688

TEL (206) 622-3150
FAX (206) 628-7699
www.dwt.com

May 7, 2001

By Federal Express

Ms. Carole J. Washburn
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Focal v. Verizon, Docket No. UT-013019

Dear Ms. Washburn:

The prehearing conference order in the above-referenced docket establishes a briefing schedule to address the issues raised and requires opening briefs from both parties on May 10. In light of recent events, Focal Communications Corporation of Washington ("Focal") wants to try to negotiate a resolution to these issues but needs additional time to undertake those negotiations. I have spoken with Kimberly Newman, counsel for Verizon Northwest Inc. ("Verizon"), who informed me that Verizon shares this desire and concern.

Accordingly, Focal requests that the Commission suspend the briefing schedule and any further proceedings in this case pending further notification from the parties to enable Focal and Verizon to engage in good faith negotiations to resolve Focal's Petition. Ms. Newman authorized me to represent that Verizon concurs with Focal's request.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this request.

Very truly yours,

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Gregory J. Kopta
cc: Kimberly Newman
Matt Berns