

[Service Date January 7, 2010]

January 7, 2010

**NOTICE RESCHEDULING POST-HEARING BRIEFING DEADLINE AND
PERMITTING ORAL REBUTTAL AND SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY
REGARDING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS
(Post-hearing briefs due February 26, 2010)**

Re: *In the Matter of the Joint Application of Verizon Communications Inc. and Frontier Communications Corporation For An Order Declining to Assert Jurisdiction Over, or, in the Alternative, Approving the Indirect Transfer of Control of Verizon Northwest Inc., Docket UT-090842*

TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD:

On July 28, 2009, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) entered Order 2, Prehearing Conference Order, among other things, scheduling this matter for hearing on December 15 - 18, 2009. On December 15, 2009, the Commission issued a notice acknowledging that several of the parties had reached settlement agreements with Verizon Communications, Inc., and Frontier Communications Corporation (collectively referred to as the Joint Applicants) although neither the settlement agreements nor testimony in support thereof had yet been filed. The Commission rescheduled the hearing in this matter for February 2 - 4, 2010.

With a revised hearing schedule, it is necessary to establish procedures for presenting rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony regarding the settlements and post-hearing legal argument.

The Commission concludes that there is insufficient time before hearing to reasonably accommodate two rounds of prefiled testimony. Therefore, parties who are not signatories to any of the four settlement agreements filed in this matter should be afforded the opportunity to present oral rebuttal. Oral rebuttal will be strictly limited to the content of the settlement agreements and testimony filed in support thereof. Parties who are signatories to any or all of the four settlement agreements should be

afforded the opportunity to present oral surrebuttal to any oral rebuttal testimony. Oral surrebuttal will be strictly limited to those issues raised during rebuttal.

The Commission further determines that the parties should be given the opportunity to file simultaneous post-hearing briefs. The current post-hearing briefing deadline of January 11, 2010, should be vacated and rescheduled to February 26, 2010.

THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That simultaneous post-hearing briefs in this matter are due February 26, 2010.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA CLARK
Administrative Law Judge