

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UT-040788
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	ORDER 20
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	ORDER DISMISSING ORDER
)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS;
VERIZON NORTHWEST INC.,)	ALLOWING TARIFF REVISIONS
)	ON LESS THAN STATUTORY
Respondent.)	NOTICE
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On July 1, 2007, Verizon Northwest Inc. (Verizon or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-17, designated as Section 2, 4th Revised Sheet 20 and Section 5, 2nd Revised Sheet 5.1 and 5th Revised Sheet 6. The proposed revisions removed the December 31, 2007, expiration date of Verizon’s residential Late Payment Charge (LPC).
- 2 On November 28, 2007, the Commission entered an Order Suspending Tariff Revisions and Extending Expiration Date to allow Verizon, Commission Staff and Public Counsel an additional 90 days to review the LPC tariff.
- 3 On February 6, 2008, Verizon filed a revision to WN U-17, designated as Section 2, 4th Revised Sheet 19 and 5th Revised Sheet 20, and Section 5, 2nd Revised Sheet 5.1 and 5th Revised Sheet 6. The revision changes the terms and conditions of Verizon’s residential Late Payment Charge (LPC) to reflect an agreement reached among Verizon, Commission Staff and Public Counsel. The proposed tariff reduces the minimum charge from \$2.50 to \$2.00, reduces the percentage charge from 1.5 percent to 1.0 percent, and introduces a provision that overdue bill amounts less than \$2.00 will not be subject to the LPC. Verizon requests an effective date of February 21, 2008, which is less than the 30-day statutory notice period, in order that the revised tariff may become effective before the expiration date of the current LPC.
- 4 The revised LPC Verizon proposes and to which Commission Staff and Public Counsel agree will provide an appropriate incentive to Verizon’s customers to encourage on-time

bill payment, while reducing the impact of the LPC on customers with lower overdue bills. Therefore, the revised tariff should be allowed to go into effect as proposed.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including telecommunications companies. *RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.12, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.36.*
- 6 (2) Verizon is a telecommunications company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 7 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 14, 2008.
- 8 (4) The tariff revisions are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient because they provide an appropriate incentive to Verizon's customers to encourage on-time bill payment and allocate some of the costs associated with late payment to those causing the costs, while reducing the impact of the LPC on customers with lower overdue bills.
- 9 (5) After reviewing the tariff revisions Verizon filed in Docket UT-040788 and giving due consideration, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public interest to dismiss the Order Suspending Tariff Revisions and Extending Expiration Date in Docket UT-040788, dated November 28, 2007, and allow the tariff revisions to Tariff WN U-17 filed on February 6, 2008, to become effective on February 21, 2008.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 10* (1) The Order Suspending Tariff Revisions and Extending Expiration Date in Docket UT-040788, entered on November 28, 2007, is dismissed.
- 11* (2) The tariff revisions Verizon Northwest Inc. filed in this docket on February 6, 2008, shall become effective on February 21, 2008.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective February 14, 2008.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner