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June 2, 2004

C. Robert Wallis, Administrative Law Judge Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW P. O. Box 47250 Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Re:

WUTC v. Verizon Northwest Inc.

Docket No. UT-040788

Dear Judge Wallis:

This letter is sent to advise the Commission and the parties that the Commission Staff is not filing a formal answer today to Verizon's Petition for Interim Rate Increase.

Staff does not believe a formal response is necessary, given the fact that the Commission suspended the interim tariff; that matter has been set for hearing; and a date has been set for any dispositive motions.

Very truly yours,

DONALD T. TROTTER

Senior Counsel

DTT:kll cc: Parties