

May 21, 2004

Carole J. Washburn, Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW  
P. O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: *In the Matter of the Review of Unbundled Loop and Switching Rates and Review of the Deaveraged Zone Rate Structure*, Docket No. UT-023003

Dear Ms. Washburn:

The Commission Staff submits this letter in accordance with the Administrative Law Judge's notice of opportunity to respond to AT&T Communications of the Pacific Northwest, Inc.'s (AT&T) Motion to Strike Testimony Or To Permit Filing of Additional Response Testimony regarding the rebuttal testimony of Timothy Tardiff, Ph.D., filed by Verizon Northwest, Inc. Staff concurs with AT&T that the rebuttal testimony is improper to the extent that it is directed at the HM 5.3 cost model. Dr. Tardiff's criticisms of HM 5.3 should have been included in his response testimony. For the same reasons, Staff concurs that the Commission should strike Exhibit \_\_\_\_ (TJT-4).

Very truly yours,

SHANNON E. SMITH  
Assistant Attorney General  
(360) 664-1192

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cc: All parties