

[Service Date May 11, 2004]

May 11, 2004

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO
VERIZON'S MOTION TO HOLD PROCEEDING IN ABEYANCE
(Due by Tuesday, May 18, 2004)**

RE: *In the Matter of the Petition for Arbitration of an Amendment to Interconnection Agreements of Verizon Northwest Inc. with Competitive Local Exchange Carriers and Commercial Mobile Radio Service Providers in Washington Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 252(b), and the Triennial Review Order, Docket No. UT-043013.*

On May 7, 2004, Verizon Northwest Inc. (Verizon) filed with the Commission a motion requesting that the Commission hold the proceeding in abeyance until June 15, 2004, the date to which the D.C. Circuit extended its stay of mandate in *United States Telecom Ass'n v. FCC*, 359 F. 3d 554 (D.C. Cir. 2004). Verizon asserts that placing the proceeding into abeyance would allow parties to devote their attention to commercial negotiations without the distraction of simultaneous litigation.

Verizon reports that some parties, ELI, Rio, New Edge, and the members of the Competitive Carriers Coalition represented by Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman LLP do not oppose the motion.

In order to resolve this matter expeditiously, any party who seeks to respond to Verizon's motion must do so in writing by Tuesday, May 18, 2004. Given the shortened time for responses, parties may submit responses with the Commission electronically or via facsimile pursuant to WAC 480-07-145(6) and file a paper copy with the Commission by Wednesday, May 19, 2004.

Sincerely

ANN E. RENDAHL
Administrative Law Judge

