

April 11, 2002

RE: MCI Telecommunications Corporation and AT&T Communications of the Pacific Northwest, v. U S WEST Communications, Inc., GTE Northwest, Inc., and United Telephone Company of the Northwest; Docket No. UT-970658

TO PARTIES OF RECORD:

On March 7, 2002, the Commission entered the Sixth Supplemental Order in this matter rejecting Qwest's proposed tariff revisions. Also on March 20, 2002, the Commission gave notice of a prehearing conference in this matter, to be held on March 20, 2002. The date for that conference has, at the request of the parties, been continued to April 2, 2002.

On March 19, 2002, MCI Worldcom and AT&T filed with the Commission a letter indicating that agreement on refunds have been reached between those parties and Qwest. That letter also indicates that the Commission Staff agrees with Qwest's proposed refunds. MCI Worldcom and AT&T indicate that they withdraw any objection to the Qwest tariff rejected on March 7, 2002.

On March 25, 2002, the Commission asked parties to respond to the March 19, 2002, MCI WorldCom/AT&T letter by noon on Wednesday, March 25, 2002. Two responses were received. Qwest replied recommending that the Commission rescind its order rejecting Qwest's tariff, or enter another order authorizing refiling. Commission Staff replied recommending that Qwest should be allowed to re-file its compliance filing on less than statutory notice, so that refunds may be made as promptly as possible. Staff also indicates that an order directing that refunds be made would be appropriate, to insure that an order is entered that directs such refunds. Staff has offered to prepare such an order, in consultation with the other parties, for review by the Commission.

The Commission will accept Staff's offer. Compliance with the Commission's March 23, 1999, final order will require both the new tariff and an order directing refunds. The Commission would like to see these provided as a package. Any further discussion of issues remaining, or of steps required to settle all remaining questions can be taken up at the prehearing conference scheduled in this matter for April 2, 2002, at 1:30 p.m.

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN  
Secretary