

September 2, 2009

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE RESPONSES
(Responses due by Wednesday, September 16, 2009)**

RE: *In the Matter of the Petition of QWEST CORPORATION to be Regulated
Under an Alternative Form of Regulation Pursuant to RCW 80.36.135.
Docket UT-061625*

TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD:

By Order 06, dated July 24, 2007, Order Accepting Settlement and Approving Alternative Form of Regulation, On Conditions, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) approved the multi-party settlement that retained some of Qwest Corporation's (Qwest) services under tariff and allowed Qwest to determine the rates for many other services. The alternative form of regulation (AFOR) was approved for a four-year term during which Qwest is not allowed to alter the rates for services that remain under tariff.

On August 17, 2009, Qwest filed a petition to modify the AFOR to allow it to file tariffs requesting cost recovery for certain costs associated with relocation of its facilities.

The statute that allows the Commission to approve an AFOR, RCW 80.135, provides that the Commission may allow a utility to rescind or modify an AFOR upon petition by the company and after notice and hearing. However, the statute does not provide guidance regarding the process to follow for such modifications. Moreover, none of the Commission's statutes or rules address the situation where certain telecommunications services remain under regulation, are not to be modified during the term of an AFOR, and there is a request to modify regulated services during that term. Accordingly, the Commission determines that other parties to this proceeding should be afforded the opportunity to respond to Qwest's petition and comment on the appropriate process and procedures for the Commission to follow in considering the petition.

NOTICE IS GIVEN That responses to Qwest's petition to modify the AFOR are due by Wednesday, September 16, 2009.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA CLARK
Administrative Law Judge