

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Joint Application)	DOCKET UT-050814
of)	
)	
VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS)	ORDER 14
INC. AND MCI, INC.)	
)	
For Approval of Agreement and Plan)	ORDER AMENDING ORDER 07
of Merger)	RELATING TO DISBURSEMENT
)	PERIOD OF PUBLIC PURPOSE FUND
)	
.....)	

- 1 *Synopsis: The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) amends the period for disbursement of monies in the Public Purpose Fund specified in Order 07 in this docket, extending the ending date from June 30, 2009, to August 15, 2009.*

- 2 In Order 07 in this docket, the Commission established a Public Purpose Fund (Fund) to balance the anticipated harm from the merger of Verizon Northwest Inc. (Verizon) and MCI, Inc. (MCI). In that order, the Commission directed that monies in the fund be disbursed at the Commission’s direction no later than June 30, 2009.¹

- 3 In Order 09, the Commission selected the Greater Everett Community Foundation (Foundation) as administrator of the Fund. In that order, the Commission also defined the parameters of the Fund, including its administration and applicant and project eligibility criteria.

¹ In the Matter of the Joint Application of Verizon Communications Inc. and MCI, Inc., for Approval of Agreement and Plan of Merger, Docket UT050814, Order 07, Order Accepting Settlement, on Condition, Approving merger, on Condition (Dec. 23, 2005) ¶ 206.

- 4 On July 18, 2006, Verizon, the Commission and the Foundation entered into and filed a Fund Agreement implementing the terms of Order 09.
- 5 On September 4, 2007, the Foundation filed a letter with the Commission requesting an extension of the grant disbursement period until August 15, 2009. The Foundation states that the grant was promoted to applicants as a 24-month project and the plans submitted will require a full 24 months to implement and fund. Further, the Foundation asserts that without an extension, it is highly likely that grantees will request an extension at the end of the project, leading to unforeseen staff work by the Foundation to revise grant agreements and manage other administrative details.
- 6 The Foundation reports that Verizon, the Office of Public Counsel, the Foundation and Commission Staff have agreed to the extension of the grant period.
- 7 By this Order, the Commission clarifies and amends Order 07 to reflect that monies in the Public Purpose Fund be disbursed no later than August 15, 2009. We appreciate that the parties worked cooperatively to address the Foundation's concerns, and that they have done so in a way that preserves their interests and the Commission's intention in its earlier Order. The parties must file a revised Fund Agreement with the Commission within 30 days of the effective date of this Order reflecting this extension of the grant disbursement period.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS

- 8 (1) Paragraph 206 of Order 07 is amended to reflect that monies in the Public Purpose Fund be disbursed no later than August 15, 2009.

- 9 (2) The parties must file a revised Fund Agreement with the Commission within 30 days of the effective date of this Order reflecting this extension of the grant disbursement period.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective September 19, 2007.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner