

[Service Date July 2, 2004]

July 2, 2004

**NOTICE OF RULING ON MOTION TO EXTEND  
PAGE LIMITATIONS FOR BRIEFS**

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

TO THE PARTIES:

On June 30, 2004, Verizon requested that the Commission extend the page limitation for its initial brief from the 60-page limit contained in the Commission's rules to 125 pages. Verizon based its request on the large number of legal and costing issues, the two different cost models presented, the filing of over 1,750 pages of testimony and 115 exhibits. Verizon pointed out that its brief in the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau Virginia arbitration proceeding was 172 pages in length. Verizon indicated it would not oppose an extension to 100 pages for the other parties to the proceeding.

Both Commission Staff and AT&T oppose Verizon's request, although they agree that an extension to 75 pages is warranted. Staff points out that while extensions of the page limitation have been granted in past cases, none of the extensions is of the magnitude requested by Verizon. The largest extension was allowed in Part D of the prior cost Docket No. UT-003013, by notice dated July 17, 2002, to 85 pages. Staff observed that in Part D, as well as other segments of the prior cost proceeding where the Commission extended the page limit for briefs, the costs of both Qwest and Verizon were at issue. In this case, Staff points out, only the costs of Verizon are at issue.

AT&T recommends that a slight increase of the page limitation would be appropriate in light of the fact that Verizon has submitted a brand new cost model in this proceeding, the FCC has established a new standard for determining the cost of capital and the Commission has expanded the briefing outline.

In light of the number and complexity of issues presented in this case, it is reasonable to grant an extension of the 60-page limit for briefs established in WAC 480-07-395(b). As AT&T points out, Verizon submitted a new cost model in this case and the Commission requested that the parties address additional issues in their briefs. The Commission is also concerned that Verizon be allowed sufficient opportunity to respond to multiple arguments raised by the other parties. The Commission's primary concern in granting an extension is to obtain briefs that will assist it in reaching a decision. The Commission cautions the parties that the grant of a page limit extension does not mean that they must file briefs to meet the extended page limit if that is not required for them to fully address the issues in the case.

**Notice is given that the page limit for initial briefs is extended to 125 pages for Verizon and to 100 pages for all other parties.**

Sincerely,

THEODORA M. MACE  
Administrative Law Judge