

**[Service Date March 7, 2003]**

March 7, 2003

**NOTICE EXTENDING TIME FOR PARTIES TO FILE AND ANSWER MOTIONS**

**(March 14, 2003, and March 21, 2003, respectively)**

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:

The Commission convened a prehearing conference on February 6, 2003, to address the scope of the proceeding and scheduling issues. During the conference the parties stated that they have previously discussed whether other parties would be allowed to observe the conduct of time and motion studies by Qwest and Verizon. Qwest and Verizon were unable to respond to the proposal by other parties and also requested more information. Parties interested in observing the conduct of time and motion studies were required to submit to Qwest and Verizon written statements of interest, including proposed terms and conditions, no later than February 14, 2003. Qwest and Verizon were required to respond to other parties no later than February 21, 2003. Parties were required to file motions regarding observation of the conduct of time and motion studies no later than February 28, 2003.

On February 20, 2003, the Commission granted Qwest's request for an extension of time to respond to proposals until after Commission orders addressing issues raised at the prehearing conference were entered.<sup>1</sup> The deadline for Qwest and Verizon to respond to other parties was extended to February 28, 2003, and the date for parties to file motions regarding requests to observe the conduct of time and motion studies was extended to March 7, 2003.

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<sup>1</sup> We note that Verizon joined in the motion at the same time as the motion was being granted.

On March 7, 2003, WorldCom filed a letter representing that Qwest and Verizon were still in the process of developing their work plans and time and motion study designs. WorldCom states that until that is complete, WorldCom does not have the ability to determine whether any real dispute exists for the Commission to resolve. WorldCom requests an extension of time to file motions to compel until after Verizon and Qwest fully provide the parties with details of their plans. According to WorldCom, no party would be prejudiced by the Commission's granting of this request.

WorldCom represents that Verizon has no objection to an extension of time. Further, Qwest has no objection to an extension of time with regard to some aspects of its response to WorldCom's proposal but objects to an extension of time with regard to other aspects of its response.

WorldCom's request for an extension of time is granted for a limited time only. As indicated by Qwest's position, some issues may be ripe for resolution. It is administratively more efficient for the Commission to address all related issues regarding the observation of the conduct of time and motion studies at one time. However, the Commission is reluctant to extend this process indefinitely. The date for parties to file motions regarding requests to observe the conduct of time and motion studies is extended from March 7, 2003, to **March 14, 2003**. At that time parties must bring motions based on the best available information. Qwest and Verizon must respond to motions no later than **March 21, 2003**.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE J. BERG  
Administrative Law Judge

THEODORA MACE  
Administrative Law Judge