

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of

QWEST CORPORATION

Petition for Commission Approval of  
Stipulation Regarding Certain Performance  
Indicator Definitions and Qwest  
Performance Assurance Plan Provisions.

DOCKET NO. UT-073034

STAFF RESPONSE TO QWEST'S  
MOTION TO CONVERT  
PROCEEDING TO A SIX-MONTH  
REVIEW AND TO VACATE THE  
CURRENT SCHEDULE

1 On Friday, October 19, 2007, Qwest filed a motion to convert its petition in Docket  
UT-073034 to a six-month review and to vacate the current schedule.

2 Staff agrees that a six-month review process could provide a useful opportunity to  
resolve the issues raised in this case, and believes that the motion, if granted, would not  
preclude Staff's participation in regional coordination efforts. Therefore, Staff does not  
object to Qwest's motion and supports vacation of the current schedule.

3 Staff notes that in the past, as a predicate to the six-month review process, the  
Commission ordered Staff to participate in the Long Term PID Administration (LTPA)  
collaborative under the auspices of the Regional Oversight Committee.<sup>1</sup> In 2003, the  
Commission stated:

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<sup>1</sup> *In the Matter of the Investigation Into U S West Communications, Inc. 's Compliance With Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Docket UT-003022; In the Matter of U S West Communications, Inc. 's Statement of Generally Available Terms Pursuant to Section 252(f) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Docket UT-003040, 47th Supplemental Order; Directing Participation in Multi-State Collaborative; In the*

Participation in the LTPA collaborative will allow the Commission to evaluate performance measures, or PIDs, in the six-month review proceeding more effectively and efficiently than proceeding independently. While certain issues concerning the PIDs may relate only to Washington State, Qwest and interested CLECs are likely to raise a number of issues that would be common to states in Qwest's region. Addressing the common issues first in a regional collaborative process will provide to all parties and the Commission the benefits of greater efficiency and time-savings in the six-month review proceeding.<sup>2</sup>

4 The LTPA has since been discontinued,<sup>3</sup> making it impossible for Staff to comply with the Commission's earlier order. Nonetheless, in order to meet the spirit of the Commission's requirement for a multi-state collaborative process, Staff has participated in bi-weekly Regional Oversight Committee conference calls to review the proposed changes to the PAP, attended the Fall 2007 Regional Oversight Committee meeting in Boise, and worked directly with staff from other states to get a clear picture of the effects of the proposed changes. Staff is prepared to participate in future conference calls, regional meetings, and the development and issuance of regional data requests to Qwest from Regional Oversight Committee states, including a request for a regional procedural coordination as envisioned in the resolution of the Regional Oversight Committee Supporting Multi-state Collaborative Discussions Regarding Qwest's Performance Assurance Plans and Performance Indicators.<sup>4</sup>

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*Matter of the Six-Month Review of Qwest Corporation's Performance Assurance Plan*, Docket UT-033020, Order Directing Participation in Multi-State Collaborative, ¶ 39 (Aug. 21, 2003).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at ¶ 17.

<sup>3</sup> In its response to Bench Request Response 01-001, filed August 16, 2007, Qwest stated, "Following the discontinuance of the LTPA..., [the PID Management Process] was implemented as the successor process to the LTPA."

<sup>4</sup> The Resolution, adopted September 26, 2007, provides in pertinent part: "Resolved: The Regional Oversight Committee supports the use of a collaborative approach under the auspices of the Regional Oversight Committee to evaluate proposed revisions to the Performance Assurance Plan and performance indicators, with the understanding that each participating state Commission may act independently on issues where it might differ from the multi-state group decision or recommendation."

**COMMISSION STAFF'S RESPONSE TO QWEST'S MOTION  
TO CONVERT PROCEEDING TO SIX-MONTH REVIEW  
AND VACATE SCHEDULE - 2**

Despite the Commission's intention that the parties participate in the LTPA collaborative as a predicate to a six-month review process before the Commission, Staff does not object to Qwest's motion to convert this proceeding to a six-month review because doing so would not preclude Staff's involvement in a regional collaborative process.

DATED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT M. MCKENNA  
Attorney General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Thompson', written over a horizontal line.

JONATHAN C. THOMPSON  
Assistant Attorney General  
Counsel for Washington Utilities and  
Transportation Commission Staff