

March 18, 2002

Carole Washburn, Secretary Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission PO Box 47250 Olympia, WA 98504

James R. Hirschy – President & CEO responder to BENCH REQUEST questions:

BENCH REQUEST NO. 43

A. Do you have, or have you had, an interconnection agreement with Qwest? If so, when did it become effective? If not, are you currently negotiating an agreement with Qwest?

Answer: We currently have an Interconnection agreement with Qwest. It was negotiated in August 2001 and signed on September 26, 2001. It was effective October 31, 2001.

B. What services are you currently purchasing under your interconnection agreement?

Answer: We are not currently purchasing services, however, once we complete our cable acquisition in Washington (2Q02) we will be acquiring UNE and local dial tone.

- C. Not Applicable
- D. Does your interconnection agreement contain and implementation schedule? If so, how detailed is the implementation schedule.

Answer: No.

- E. See D above
- F. Under your interconnection agreement with Qwest, please provide traffic data for all traffic terminated to Qwest separately, on a resale and facilities basis. For traffic terminated on a facilities basis, please distinguish between local and intraLATA toll traffic. All reports should include the three most current months.

Answer: We are not using Qwest services currently.

Scottsdale, Arizona 85255 www. ruralwestbroadband.com

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BENCH REQUEST NO. 44

A. On an exchange basis, what is the number of active business and residential access lines your company serves within Qwest's service territory in Washington.

Answer: We do not provision services currently in Washington. We are awaiting the completion of our cable property acquisition.

Items B, C, D - NOT APPLICABLE AT THIS TIME.

E. What is your opinion concerning your company's likely success or rate of growth in the local exchange market?

Answer. As a resale agent our success is still directly tied to the responsiveness and timeliness of the Qwest installation and maintenance service forces. This hampers our success, as we do not have direct control over the degree of professionalism or timely commitment to meet customer requirements and service timelines. However, having said the previous statement – we view that our success and growth rate will be fairly steady and increasing – mainly because residential and business customers are looking for alternatives because of the overall service quality. Strange as it may seem – just being able to go to any alternative supplier is comforting to many of the customers.

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Item F and G - NOT APPLICABLE AT THIS TIME.

BENCH REQUEST NO. 45

A. Is your company registered by the Commission as a facilities-based CLEC

Answer: NO!

Item B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K and L – NOT APPLICABLE AT THIS TIME

James R. Hirschy President & CEO RuralWest™ - Western Rural Broadband, Inc.