

August 6, 2002

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO VERIZON'S REQUEST TO  
SUSPEND 18-MONTH LINE EXTENSION REQUIREMENT**

RE: Petition of Verizon Northwest Inc. for Waiver of WAC 480-120-071(2)(a)  
Docket No. UT-011439

TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD:

On July 22, 2002, Verizon filed a Motion for Extension of Service Extension Completion Date. Verizon's motion indicated that WAC 480-120-071(2)(a) requires that a service extension must be completed within 18 months after a request for service is made and the customer makes an initial payment. This portion of the rule also allows an extension of the 18-month period if there is good cause.

Verizon's Amended Petition seeking a waiver of the line extension rule shows that service requests underlying the waiver petition were made on June 15, 2001 and December 7, 2001, respectively. The Commission approved the current schedule of proceedings, calling for hearing in January, 2003, to accommodate the addition of two parties to the case, Qwest and RCC, and to allow for a full development of the record since this is a case of first impression. Verizon contends that based on this schedule, it may not be possible for it to meet the 18-month construction requirement and requests a suspension of the requirement until the Commission has resolved the issues in the case.

The parties discussed this issue at the prehearing conference on July 17, 2002. Counsel for Commission Staff, Qwest, RCC and Public Counsel stated they had no objection to suspending the 18-month requirement contained in the line extension rule.

**All parties must file a response by August 16, 2002 confirming their non-objection to Verizon's motion to suspend the 18-month construction period, or, in the alternative, stating the grounds for their objection.**

Sincerely,

THEODORA M. MACE  
Administrative Law Judge