



August 27, 2003

Ms. Carole Washburn
Secretary
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Filed Via Electronic Mail
Commission's Record Center
records@wutc.wa.gov

Re: Commission Rulemaking to Amend WAC 480-120-146, Changing service providers from one local exchange company to another.
Docket No. UT-030964

Dear Ms. Washburn:

Eschelon Telecom of Washington, Inc. (Eschelon) received the Commission's August 6, 2003 NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS and NOTICE OF STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION. I have reviewed the proposed, amended rule with several colleagues at Eschelon and respectfully offer the following comments.

Eschelon believes the revised rule, as offered by Qwest Corporation and Commission staff may assume that all local exchange carriers (LECs) have an automated local number portability (LNP) process/system in place. Eschelon handles the LNP process manually and does not employ a "trigger" mechanism that can be set to disconnect a customer's service at a set time. When Eschelon receives a local service request (LSR) from a competing carrier that involves porting a number, our switch translations group places a "port feature" on the number being ported, at the new provider's specified due date and time. The "port feature" blocks access to the number in Eschelon's switch until such time as our technicians confirm, through the Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC), that the number has been successfully ported. Only then does Eschelon complete the disconnection process.

While the above description greatly simplifies the conversion process* it is the basis for Eschelon's recommendation that the proposed, amended rule be modified to read as follows:

* There are many factors that should be considered, or reconsidered, as the Commission contemplates this Rulemaking, which impact the timeliness of disconnection and a LEC's ability to comply with the notification requirements of both the current rule and the proposed, amended rule.

WAC 480-120-146 Changing service providers from one local exchange company to another. When a customer changes from one local exchange company (LEC) to another and the customer retains the same telephone number via local number portability (LNP) the LEC providing original service to the customer must wait until 11:59 p.m. of the next business day following the scheduled port *or must verify that the number has been ported to the new provider* before disconnecting a customer's original service.

When a customer changes service providers from one (~~local exchange company (LEC)~~) LEC to another, and the customer does not retain the same telephone number via LNP, the LEC providing (~~existing~~) original service to the customer must not discontinue service until it receives confirmation of activation of new service from the new service provider. The LEC providing new service must supply prompt notice of activation.

The requirements of this section do not apply if the customer submitted the cancellation order directly to the LEC providing existing service.

Eschelon appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments to the Commission. Should the Commission or its Staff have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

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