

[Service Date March 29, 2012]

March 29, 2012

**NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION OF PRESIDING OFFICER AND
NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE OBJECTIONS
(Objections due by Thursday, April 5, 2012)**

RE: *In the Matter of the Joint Application of VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS, INC., and FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION For an Order Declining to Assert Jurisdiction Over or, in the Alternative, Approving the Indirect Transfer of Verizon Northwest Inc., Docket UT-090842*

TO ALL PARTIES:

On March 28, 2012, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of *In Camera* Hearing in this matter for Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. The Commission reassigns this matter to Administrative Law Judge Gregory J. Kopta who will, hereafter, substitute as presiding officer for Administrative Law Judge Patricia Clark.

Mr. Kopta formerly served as counsel for a party, Comcast Phone of Washington (Comcast), prior to his employment as Director of the Administrative Law Division on September 16, 2010. In Order 06, the Commission approved the settlement agreement between Comcast and the Joint Applicants which resolved Comcast's issues. The provisions of that settlement agreement are not in dispute, nor is Comcast any longer an active participant in this docket. Accordingly, the Commission finds that Mr. Kopta's participation on behalf of the Commission will not present a conflict of interest.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That any objections to Judge Kopta presiding over this matter must be filed with the Commission no later than 5:00 p.m., Thursday, April 5, 2012.

Sincerely,

DAVID W. DANNER
Executive Director and Secretary