

[Service Date July 7, 2004]

July 7, 2004

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

**NOTICE OF TIME TO FILE REVISED AMENDMENT TO
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS**

(Due by August 20, 2004)

**NOTICE OF TIME TO FILE PROPOSED REVISED
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

(Due by August 27, 2004)

RE: *In the Matter of the Petition for Arbitration of an Amendment to Interconnection Agreements of Verizon Northwest Inc. with Competitive Local Exchange Carriers and Commercial Mobile Radio Service Providers in Washington Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 252(b), and the Triennial Review Order, Docket No. UT-043013.*

TO ALL PARTIES:

On Tuesday, July 6, 2004, Verizon Northwest Inc. filed a Motion for Further Extension of Time to submit a final issues list due by the end of the day today, as required by Order No. 06 in this proceeding. Verizon states that it plans to file a revised proposed amendment to interconnection agreements within the next few weeks. After filing the revised amendment, Verizon will confer with the other parties and propose a revised procedural schedule for filing an issues list and briefs.

Verizon has conferred with all parties. Verizon reports that the Competitive Carrier Coalition, AT&T, MCI, and the Competitive Carrier Group do not oppose the motion, as long as the parties are allowed additional time for negotiation, development of an issues list, and submission of briefs. Verizon reports that XO Washington, Time Warner Telecom, and Sprint may oppose the motion.

The Commission interprets Verizon's request for an extension of time to file the issues list and to file a second revised amendment as a request to cancel the procedural schedule established in Order No. 06 in this proceeding. Pursuant to WAC 480-07-385, parties must make written requests for extensions of time at least five business days prior to the deadline. The Commission may consider late-filed requests for extensions of time if the requester demonstrates good cause that prevented a timely request. *WAC 480-07-385(3)(c)*. The deadline for filing motions for extensions or continuances is established to allow time for responses, in the event the motion may be contested as in this matter. *See WAC 480-07-385(3)(a)*. Verizon indicates there may be opposition to the motion but does not allow time for opposing parties to respond before the need for the extension of time, *i.e.*, today.

The rule also provides that the Commission will grant extensions of time only to a date certain. *See WAC 480-07-385(4)*. Verizon states only that it will file a revised amendment "within the next few weeks."

The Commission requires more specificity and timeliness in requests for extensions of time and continuance. Denying Verizon's motion for procedural deficiencies, however, would work to the detriment of all parties and the Commission, as Verizon would likely not meet today's deadline for filing a final issues list, and a revised amendment may assist in narrowing the issues and reducing the burden on all parties and the Commission. For these reasons, the procedural schedule established in Order No. 06 is cancelled. **Based upon discussions with counsel for Verizon, Verizon must file a revised amendment with the Commission by August 20, 2004, and must submit a proposed revised procedural schedule to all parties and the Commission by August 27, 2004.**

Based upon Verizon's representations at the June 16, 2004, prehearing conference, the Commission understands Verizon's motion for an extension of time as a waiver of the statutory period to complete the arbitration within a 90-day period.

Sincerely

ANN E. RENDAHL
Administrative Law Judge