

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

In the Matter of the	)	DOCKET NO. UT-003013
	)	
	)	FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER;
	)	SUPPLEMENTAL PREHEARING
Continued Costing and Pricing of Unbundled	)	CONFERENCE ORDER
Network Elements, Transport, and Termination	)	
.....	)	

**Prehearing Conference and Order**

- 1 The Commission convened a Prehearing Conference in this docket on June 23, 2000, at Olympia, Washington pursuant to due and proper notice to all interested persons before Administrative Law Judge Lawrence J. Berg. Subsequently, the "Third Supplemental Order; Prehearing Conference Order" was served July 17, 2000.
- 2 The Third Supplemental Order made numerous decisions based on the parties' requests for clarification and questions regarding the procedural details of the issues to be addressed in Part A and Part B of this proceeding.
- 3 Parties also were given the opportunity to comment whether the decisions regarding procedural details required that parties be allowed to file supplemental direct testimony in Part A.
- 4 Comments were filed by: Verizon Northwest, Inc., f/k/a GTE Northwest Incorporated ("GTE"); NEXTLINK Washington, Inc., Electric Lightwave, Inc., Advanced Telcom Group, Inc., NorthPoint Communications, New Edge Networks, Inc., and McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, Inc. (collectively "Joint CLECs"); and Covad Communications Company and Rhythms Links, Inc. (collectively "Joint Commentors").
- 5 The Commission changes the timing of its consideration of loop conditioning to Part B as requested by the Joint CLECs and Joint Commentors, and grants GTE's request to file supplemental direct testimony regarding interconnection entrance facilities.

**Loop Conditioning**

- 6 In the Third Supplemental Order, the Commission stated that nonrecurring charges would be considered along with the recurring rates of their related network elements. Loop conditioning generally consists of removing load coils and bridge taps from local loops, and nonrecurring charges for this activity have been proposed. Accordingly, the Order also stated that loop conditioning costing and pricing would be addressed along with line sharing in Part A.
- 7 The Joint CLECs and Joint Commentors respond that the Commission previously

identified loop conditioning as a Part B issue, and that three weeks are necessary in order to prepare testimony on this issue in Part A. They request a delay to allow for preparation of testimony or that the issue be moved to Part B.

8 The Commission is unable to delay Part A hearings, and there is insufficient time to allow parties to prepare testimony as requested. Changing consideration of loop conditioning to Part B of this proceeding is not prejudicial to any party and would resolve concerns raised by the Joint CLECs and Joint Commentors. Accordingly, the Commission finds that good cause exists to address loop conditioning in Part B.

9 Parties may file responsive testimony regarding loop conditioning on the Part B schedule.

### **Interconnection Entrance Facilities**

10 In the Third Supplemental Order, the Commission stated that it expects to establish the permanent rate for interconnection entrance facilities along with collocation elements in Part A. GTE considers these costs to be incurred to support interconnection, as opposed to collocation, and states that it needs to supplement its Part A direct testimony to address these costs. GTE proposed to fax file and serve supplemental testimony on Tuesday, July 25, 2000, and file and serve paper copies the following business day.

11 It appears that other parties would not be prejudiced by GTE's proposal and that good cause exists to grant GTE's request to file supplemental direct testimony. The Commission also approves the Company's proposal to fax file and serve.

12 The Commission further finds that other parties have a reasonable opportunity to respond in rebuttal testimony due August 4, 2000.

13 **NOTICE TO PARTIES: Any objection to the provisions of this Order must be filed within ten (10) days after the date of mailing of this document, pursuant to WAC 480-09-460(2). Absent such objections, this prehearing conference order will control further proceedings in this matter, subject to Commission review.**

Dated at Olympia, Washington and effective this            day of July, 2000.

LAWRENCE J. BERG  
Administrative Law Judge