BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of

DOCKET NO. UT-061625

QWEST CORPORATION

To be Regulated Under an Alternative Form of Regulation Pursuant to RCW 80.36.135

> EXHIBIT TO TESTIMONY OF

Kristen M. Russell

STAFF OF WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Rules

January 29, 2007

Page 1 of 7

WAC 480-120-439

Service quality performance reports.

- (1) Class A companies. Each Class A company must report monthly the information required in subsections (3), (4), and (6) through (10) of this section. Each company must report within thirty days after the end of the month in which the activity reported on takes place (e.g., a report concerning missed appointments in December must be reported by January 30).
- (2) Class B companies. Class B companies need not report to the commission as required by subsection (1) of this section. However, these companies must retain, for at least three years from the date they are created, all records that would be relevant, in the event of a complaint or investigation, to a determination of the company's compliance with the service quality standards established by WAC 480-120-105 (Company performance standards for installation or activation of access lines), 480-120-112 (Company performance for orders for nonbasic services), 480-120-133 (Response time for calls to business office or repair center during regular business hours), 480-120-401 (Network performance standards), 480-120-411 (Network maintenance), and 480-120-440 (Repair standards for service interruptions and impairments, excluding major outages).
- (3) **Missed appointment report.** The missed appointment report must state the number of appointments missed, the total number of appointments made, and the number of appointments excluded under (b), (c), or (d) of this subsection. The report must state installation and repair appointments separately.
- (a) A LEC is deemed to have kept an appointment when the necessary work in advance of dispatch has been completed and the technician arrives within the appointment period, even if the technician then determines the order cannot be completed until a later date. If the inability to install or repair during a kept appointment leads to establishment of another appointment, it is a new appointment for purposes of determining under this subsection whether it is kept or not.
- (b) When a LEC notifies the customer at least twenty-four hours prior to the scheduled appointment that a new appointment is necessary and a new appointment is made, then the appointment that was canceled is not a missed appointment for purposes of this subsection. A company-initiated changed appointment date is not a change to the order date for purposes of determining compliance with WAC <u>480-120-105</u> (Company performance standards for installation or activation of access lines) and 480-120-112 (Company performance for orders for nonbasic services).
- (c) A LEC does not miss an appointment for purposes of this subsection when the customer initiates a request for a new appointment.
- (d) A LEC does not miss an appointment for purposes of this subsection when it is unable to meet its obligations due to force majeure, work stoppages directly affecting provision of service in the state of Washington, or other events beyond the LEC's control.
- (4) Installation or activation of basic service report. The report must state the total number of orders taken, by central office, in each month for all orders of up to the initial five access lines as required by WAC 480-120-105 (Company performance standards for installation or activation of access lines). The report must include orders with due dates later than five days as requested by a customer. The installation or activation of basic service report must state, by central office, of the total orders taken for the month, the number of orders that the company was unable to complete within five business days after the order date or by a later date as requested by the customer.
- (a) The company must file a separate report each calendar quarter that states the total number of orders taken, by central office, in that quarter for all orders of up to the initial five access lines as required by WAC 480-120-105 (Company performance standards for installation or activation of access lines). The installation or activation of basic service ninety-day report must state, of the total orders taken for the quarter, the number of orders that the company was unable to complete within ninety days after the order date.
- (b) The company must file a separate report each six months that states the total number of orders taken, by central office, in the last six months for all orders of up to the initial five access lines as required by WAC 480-120-105 (Company performance standards for installation or activation of access lines). The installation

or activation of basic service one hundred eighty day report must state, of the total orders taken for six months, the number of orders that the company was unable to complete within one hundred eighty days.

- (c) A company may exclude from the total number of orders taken and the total number of uncompleted orders for the month:
 - (i) Orders for which customer-provided special equipment is necessary;
 - (ii) When a later installation or activation is permitted under WAC 480-120-071 (Extension of service);
- (iii) When a technician arrives at the customer's premises at the appointed time prepared to install service and the customer is not available to provide access; or
- (iv) When the commission has granted an exemption under WAC <u>480-120-015</u> (Exemptions from rules in chapter 480-120 WAC), from the requirement for installation or activation of a particular order.
- (d) For calculation of the report of orders installed or activated within five business days in a month, a company may exclude from the total number of orders taken and from the total number of uncompleted orders for the month, orders that could not be installed or activated within five days in that month due to force majeure if the company supplies documentation of the effect of force majeure upon the order.
- (5) Major outages report. Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of this section, any company experiencing a major outage that lasts more than forty-eight hours must provide a major outage report to the commission within ten business days of the major outage. The major outages report must include a description of each major outage and a statement that includes the time, the cause, the location and number of affected access lines, and the duration of the interruption or impairment. When applicable, the report must include a description of preventive actions to be taken to avoid future outages. This reporting requirement does not include company-initiated major outages that are in accordance with the contract provisions between the company and its customers or other planned interruptions that are part of the normal operational and maintenance requirements of the company.

The commission staff may request oral reports from companies concerning major outages at any time and companies must provide the requested information.

- (6) Summary trouble reports. Each month companies must submit a report reflecting the standard established in WAC <u>480-120-438</u> (Trouble report standard). The report must include the number of reports by central office and the number of lines served by the central office. In addition, the report must include an explanation of causes for each central office that exceeds the service quality standard established in WAC <u>480-120-438</u>. The reports, including repeated reports, must be presented as a ratio per one hundred lines in service. The reports caused by customer-provided equipment, inside wiring, force majeure, or outages of service caused by persons or entities other than the local exchange company should not be included in this report.
- (7) **Switching report.** Any company experiencing switching problems in excess of the standard established in WAC <u>480-120-401</u> (2)(a) (Switches -- Dial service), must report the problems to the commission. The report must identify the location of every switch that is performing below the standard.
- (8) Interoffice, intercompany and interexchange trunk blocking report. Each company that experiences trunk blocking in excess of the standard in WAC <u>480-120-401</u> (3) (Interoffice facilities) and (5) (Service to interexchange companies) must report each trunk group that does not meet the performance standards. For each trunk group not meeting the performance standards, the report must include the peak percent blocking level experienced during the preceding month, the number of trunks in the trunk group, the busy hour when peak blockage occurs, and whether the problem concerns a standard in WAC <u>480-120-401</u> (3) or (5). The report must include an explanation of steps being taken to relieve blockage on any trunk groups that do not meet the standard for two consecutive months.

(9) Repair report.

(a) For service-interruption repairs subject to the requirements of WAC 480-120-440 (Repair standards for service interruptions and impairments, excluding major outages), each company must report the number

Page 3 of 7

of service interruptions reported each month, the number repaired within forty-eight hours, and the number repaired more than forty-eight hours after the initial report. In addition, a company must report the number of interruptions that are exempt from the repair interval standard as provided for in WAC <u>480-120-440</u>.

- (b) For service-impairment repairs subject to the requirements of WAC <u>480-120-440</u>, each company must report the number of service impairments reported each month, the number repaired within seventy-two hours, and the number repaired more than seventy-two hours after the initial report. In addition, a company must report the number of impairments that are exempt from the repair interval standard as provided for in WAC <u>480-120-440</u>.
- (10) **Business office and repair answering system reports.** When requested, each company must report compliance with the standard required in WAC <u>480-120-133</u> (Response time for calls to business office or repair center during regular business hours). If requested, each company must provide the same reports to the commission that company managers receive concerning average speed of answer, transfers to live representatives, station busies, and unanswered calls.
- (11) The commission may choose to investigate matters to protect the public interest, and may request further information from companies that details geographic area and type of service, and such other information as the commission requests.
- (12) If consistent with the purposes of this section, the commission may, by order, approve for a company an alternative measurement or reporting format for any of the reports required by this section, based on evidence that:
 - (a) The company cannot reasonably provide the measurement or reports as required;
- (b) The alternative measurement or reporting format will provide a reasonably accurate measurement of the company's performance relative to the substantive performance standard; and
- (c) The ability of the commission and other parties to enforce compliance with substantive performance standard will not be significantly impaired by the use of the alternative measurement or reporting format.
- (13) Subsection (12) of this section does not preclude application for an exemption under WAC <u>480-120-015</u> (Exemptions from rules in chapter 480-120 WAC).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), § 480-120-439, filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160, and 34.05.353. 03-22-046 (Docket No. A-030832, General Order No. R-509), § 480-120-439, filed 10/29/03, effective 11/29/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-439, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-105

Company performance standards for installation or activation of access lines.

- (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, when an application is made consistent with WAC 480-120-103 (Application for service), the following standards for installation or activation of service apply:
- (a) The local exchange company (LEC) must complete, within five business days after the order date, or by a later date requested by a customer, ninety percent of all orders of up to the initial five access lines received during each month;
- (b) The LEC must complete ninety-nine percent of all orders of up to the initial five access lines received during each calendar quarter within ninety days after the order date, or by a later date requested by a customer; and
 - (c) The LEC must complete one hundred percent of all orders for access lines within one hundred eighty

Page 4 of 7

days after the order date, or by a later date requested by a customer.

(2) For purposes of determining the amount of penalties that shall apply if a LEC fails to complete the percent of orders required by subsection (1)(a), (b), and (c) of this section, each order that the LEC fails to complete in excess of the highest number of uncompleted orders that would not have triggered a violation shall be a separate violation. For example, using the ninety-nine percent completion rate under subsection (1)(b) of this section, if the LEC received one hundred orders in a quarter, and it completed only ninety-four of those orders, it would be deemed to have committed five separate violations, because it completed five less than required by the section. Violations of subsection (1)(a), (b), and (c) of this section will be determined separately, and each order is subject to all three parts.

- (3) The timelines set forth in subsection (1)(a) of this section do not apply when force majeure prevents the installation or activation of service; and the timelines set forth in subsection (1) of this section do not apply when customer-provided special equipment is necessary; when a later installation or activation is permitted under WAC <u>480-120-071</u>; or when the commission has granted an exemption from the requirement for installation or activation of a particular order under WAC <u>480-120-015</u>. These orders will be excluded from both the numerator and denominator in calculating the percentage of orders completed.
- (4) Unless the commission orders otherwise, subsection (1)(a) and (b) do not apply to LECs that are competitively classified under RCW <u>80.36.320</u> and do not offer local exchange service by tariff.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-105, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-438 Trouble report standard.

Trouble reports by central office must not exceed four trouble reports per one hundred access lines per month for two consecutive months, or per month for four months in any one twelve-month period. This standard does not apply to trouble reports related to customer premise equipment, inside wiring, force majeure, or outages of service caused by persons or entities other than the local exchange company.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-438, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-401

Network performance standards.

- (1) All companies must meet the applicable network performance standards set forth in this section. The standards applied to each service quality measurement are the minimum acceptable quality of service under normal operating conditions. All performance standards apply to each central office individually and must be measured at or below that level. The performance standards do not apply to abnormal conditions, including, but not limited to work stoppage directly affecting provision of service in the state of Washington, holidays, force majeure, or major outages caused by persons or entities other than the local exchange company (LEC) or its agents.
- (2) Switches. End-office switches, in conjunction with remote switches where deployed, must meet the following standards:
- (a) **Dial service.** For each switch, companies must meet the following minimum standards during the switch's average busy-hour of the average busy season:

Page 5 of 7

(i) Dial tone must be provided within three seconds on at least ninety-eight percent of calls placed; and

- (ii) Ninety-eight percent of calls placed must not encounter an intraswitch blocking condition within the central office, or blocking in host-remote, or interoffice local trunks.
- (b) Intercept. Central office dial equipment must provide adequate access to an operator or to a recorded announcement intercept to all vacant codes and numbers. Less than one percent of intercepted calls may encounter busy or no-circuit-available conditions during the average busy-hour, of the busy-season.
- (3) Interoffice facilities. Blocking performance during average busy-hour for ninety-nine percent of trunk groups for any month must be less than one-half of one percent for intertoll and intertandem facilities and less than one percent for local and EAS interoffice trunk facilities. The blocking standard for E911 dedicated interoffice trunk facilities must be less than one percent during average busy-hour of the average busy season. Two consecutive months is the maximum that a single trunk group may be below the applicable standard.

(4) Outside plant.

- (a) **Local loops**. Each LEC must design, construct, and maintain subscriber loops to the standard network interface or demarcation point as follows:
- (i) For voice grade, local exchange service loops must meet all performance characteristics specified in Section 4 of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Standard Telephone Loop Performance Characteristics. Information about this standard regarding the version adopted and where to obtain it is set forth in WAC 480-120-999.
- (ii) For voice grade service, the circuit noise level on customer loops measured at the customer network interface must be equal to or less than 20.0 dBrnC, except that digitized loops and loops in excess of 18,000 feet must have a noise level objective of less than 25.0 dBrnC, and noise levels must not exceed 30 dBrnC.
- (b) **Special circuits.** Off-premise station circuit loss must not exceed 5.0 dB at 1004 Hz when measured between the customer switch demarcation and the customer station demarcation. LECs with over fifty thousand access lines must maintain design criteria for special circuits. Companies must make channel performance criteria available to customers upon request.
- (c) **Digital services.** LECs must meet the availability objectives for digital private line circuit performance specified in the American National Standards for Telecommunications, "Network Performance Parameters for Dedicated Digital Services Specifications." Information about this standard regarding the version adopted and where to obtain it is set forth in WAC <u>480-120-999</u>. Upon request of a customer, a LEC may provide to that customer digital services that do not meet the performance standards set forth in (b) of this subsection.
- (5) Service to interexchange carriers. LECs must provide service to interexchange carriers at the grade of service ordered by the interexchange carrier. At a minimum, each interexchange carrier must order sufficient facilities from each LEC such that no more than two percent of all calls are blocked at the LEC's switch.
- (6) Companies must monitor the network performance of the equipment they own, operate, or share at frequent intervals so that adequate facilities can be designed, engineered and placed in service when needed to meet the standards of this section.
- (7) Each Class A LEC must arrange and design incoming trunks to the primary repair service center so that traffic overflows during service interruptions can be redirected or forwarded to an alternate repair or maintenance service center location.

Page 6 of 7

WAC 480-120-440

Repair standards for service interruptions and impairments, excluding major outages.

(1) A company must repair all out-of-service interruptions within forty-eight hours, unless the company is unable to make the repair because it is physically obstructed from doing so or because of force majeure, in which case the repair must be made as soon as practicable. The forty-eight hour requirement does not apply to out-of-service interruptions that are part of a major outage under WAC 480-120-412.

For purposes of this section an out-of-service interruption is defined as a condition that prevents the use of the telephone exchange line for purposes of originating or receiving a call and does not include trouble reported for nonregulated services such as voice messaging, inside wiring, or customer premises equipment.

- (2) A company must repair all other regulated service interruptions within seventy-two hours, unless the company is unable to make the repair because it is physically obstructed from doing so or because of force majeure, in which case the repair must be made as soon as practicable. The seventy-two hour requirement does not apply to out-of-service interruptions that are part of a major outage under WAC <u>480-120-412</u>.
- (3) The forty-eight-hour and seventy-two-hour standards do not apply during company work stoppages directly affecting provision of service in the state of Washington.
- (4) When the company informs the customer that repair requires on-premises access by the company with the customer present, the company must offer the customer an opportunity for an installation appointment that falls within a four-hour period.
- (5) A company is considered to have met its obligations under this rule if it conducts tests during the prescribed period that indicates that the customer's service is operating within industry standards. The company must make all test information available to the commission upon request.
- (6) A company is considered to have met its obligations under this rule if it conducts tests during the prescribed period which demonstrate that the reported problem may only be cleared from within the customer's premises and the company is either unable to reach the customer to arrange access or is refused access by the customer. The company must make all test information and customer contact logs available to the commission upon request.
- (7) For the purposes of this section, Sundays and legal holidays are not considered working days and are therefore excluded from the forty-eight-hour and seventy-two-hour periods.
- (8) In instances when repair requires construction work, the forty-eight-hour and seventy-two-hour periods begin when a company has received appropriate authorization from the applicable governing body associated with the repair (e.g., utility location services are completed and, if applicable, a permit is granted). A company must contact the appropriate authorities to request applicable utility location services and permits when the company determines that a repair situation requires construction work to correct. Upon receiving any repair report that requires construction work, a company must contact the appropriate authorities as soon as practicable to request utility location services and permits, if applicable.
- (9) When a company plans a service interruption, it must make reasonable efforts to notify customers that it determines service will be affected not less than seven days in advance or, if seven days' notice is not possible, as soon as the interrupted service is planned. A notice is not required for planned service interruptions that have a duration of less than five minutes and occur between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.

Page 7 of 7

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-440, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-133

Response time for calls to business office or repair center during regular business hours.

- (1) Calls placed to a company's business or repair center during regular business hours must be answered either by a live representative or an automated call answering system.
 - (2) Companies that use an automated answering system must comply with the following requirements:
- (a) Each month, the average time until the automated system answers a call must not exceed thirty seconds; and
- (b) The automated system must provide a caller with an option to speak to a live representative within the first sixty seconds of the recorded message, or it must transfer the caller to a live representative within the first sixty seconds.
- (i) A company may provide the live representative option by directing the caller to take an affirmative action (e.g., select an entry on the telephone) or by default (e.g., be transferred when the caller does not select an option on the telephone).
- (ii) The recorded message must clearly describe the method a caller must use to reach a live representative.
- (c) Each month, the average time until a live representative answers a call must not exceed sixty seconds from the time a caller selects the appropriate option to speak to a live representative.
- (3) Companies that do not use an automated answering system must answer at least ninety-nine percent of call attempts, each month, within thirty seconds.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-133, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]