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December 16, 2002

Ms. Carole Washburn
Secretary
Washington Utilities & Transp. Comm.
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Attn: Hon. Theodora Mace

Re: *Petition of Verizon Northwest, Inc., for Waiver of WAC 480-120-071(2)(a)*, Docket No. UT-011439

Dear Ms. Washburn:

To the extent there is any concern about the timing of Qwest's Motion for Leave to Respond to New Matters in Staff's Rebuttal, Qwest had, along with other parties, hoped that the ongoing settlement efforts which were discussed in the November 1, 2002 Notice of Extension of Filing Dates, would bear fruit. For this reason, Qwest did not submit its motion until after the RCC Minnesota testimony was filed, which implicitly indicated that a settlement had not been reached. Qwest also worked with the parties to develop a proposed schedule for Staff's further rebuttal which would be acceptable to Staff and other parties, before filing the motion.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Douglas N. Owens

cc: Lisa Anderl
Theresa Jensen

Parties