

November 22, 2000

Ms. Carole J. Washburn, Executive Secretary  
Washington Utilities and  
Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Dear Ms. Washburn:

Subject: **VERIZON COMMENTS - UT-990146**

Verizon Northwest Inc. (Verizon) has minimal comments in response to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission notice issued on November 7, 2000 in the above referenced docket.

Verizon does not object to the following draft rules (listed in the notice) moving into the CR102 rulemaking stage: 480-120-011, 016, 026, 027, 032, 033, 136, 530, X01, X03, X04, X10, X17, X19, and X22.

However, with regard to 480-120-X05, it is Verizon's position that this rule is not needed. Section 2, Sheet 45 in Verizon's local tariff (WN U-17) addresses the current situation of customer liability for support structure. There is no demonstrated need for this new rule language. In addition, it is contrary to Verizon's tariff in that it would shift the cost burden from the customer to the company. Such a cost shift has the effect of rate making by rulemaking. For these reasons, it is Verizon's position that this proposed rule should not be moved into the CR102 stage. Nevertheless, should the Commission include this rule in its CR102, the rule should at least be clarified so it cannot be interpreted as eliminating the liability of a person or company who may damage facilities. Examples of such liability include a fiber cut resulting from a contractor dig-up or a downed pole resulting from a vehicle accident.

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Verizon also does not object to 480-120-022, 023, 024, 025, moving from WAC Chapter 480-120 to WAC Chapter 480-121. Verizon understands when the Commission considers additional comments on the content of these rules that it will do so in the context of a CR101 stage of a rulemaking docket.

Verizon appreciates the opportunity to comment on these rules.

Please direct any questions to Joan Gage at 425-261-5238.

Very truly yours,

Lida C. Tong  
Director – Regulatory & Governmental Affairs

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