

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of Consolidation of)	DOCKET NO. UT-031803
)	
RATE CENTERS IN CLALLAM,)	DOCKET NO. UT-991627
JEFFERSON, YAKIMA, AND)	
KLICKITAT COUNTIES SERVED)	ORDER NO. 1
BY UNITED TELEPHONE)	
COMPANY OF THE)	
NORTHWEST, D/B/A SPRINT OR)	REQUIRING CONSOLIDATION
QWEST CORPORATION)	OF RATE CENTERS
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 At the Commission’s December 10, 2003, open meeting, the Commission’s Staff recommended that it order the consolidation of various rate centers in the state. The incumbent local exchange company operating in these rate centers is, with one exception, United Telephone Company of the Northwest d/b/a Sprint. The exception, Port Angeles, is served by Qwest Corporation (Qwest). The proposed consolidation would consolidate ten rate centers into five larger rate centers. The specific changes are listed in Appendix A.
- 2 According to Staff, the consolidation of these rate centers would contribute to number conservation by reducing the number of telephone prefixes that would be required by each telecommunications company wishing to offer service in these areas. The proposal would consolidate only rate centers that already have the same local calling area, and it would have no effect on the local rates of Sprint or Qwest.
- 3 Staff also noted that the Commission has approved earlier rounds of rate center consolidation covering areas where Qwest, Verizon, or CenturyTel is the incumbent local exchange company.
- 4 Staff recommended that the companies be required to complete the consolidations by March 1, 2005. This is an exceptionally long time to allow for completion of the process. Staff said that the extended time was necessary in order to accommodate a major change in Sprint’s number administration

system. Sprint has taken affirmative steps to make numbering resources available in each of the rate centers, except Toppenish, in the interim.

5 Qwest did not object to the consolidation of Gardiner into the Port Angeles rate center.

6 After examination of the proposed rate center consolidations and giving consideration to all relevant matters, the Commission makes the following findings and conclusions:

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

7 (1) The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to RCW 80.01.040 and RCW 80.36.610, which gives the Commission authority to take actions necessary to implement the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.

8 (2) Conservation of telephone numbering resources will benefit telephone customers and telecommunications companies by reducing the likelihood that additional area codes will be required. The consolidation of rate centers contributes to more efficient use of numbering resources by allowing a single prefix or block of numbers to be used over a wider geographic area.

9 (3) The consolidation of the rate centers identified in Appendix A should be approved. It will contribute to number conservation and will not impose an unreasonable burden on either telephone customers or the affected local exchange companies.

10 (4) An implementation date of March 1, 2005, while much later than is customarily required to implement rate center consolidations, will accommodate the computer system changes being implemented by Sprint and is reasonable considering the actions undertaken by Sprint to make numbering resources available in most of the affected rate centers.

- 11 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 10, 2003.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) The rate center consolidations listed in Appendix A of this Order are approved. United Telephone Company of the Northwest and Qwest Corporation are directed to complete the consolidations by March 1, 2005.
- 13 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and United Telephone Company of the Northwest and Qwest Corporation to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 10th day of December, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

APPENDIX A

Rate Center Consolidations
To Be Implemented by March 1, 2005

Current Rate Centers	Consolidated Rate Centers
Toppenish Zillah	Toppenish
Mabton Bickleton	Mabton
Brinnon Quilcene	HoodCanal
Gardiner Port Angeles	Port Angeles
Dallesport Wishram	Dallesport