

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Pricing Proceeding for) Docket No. UT -960369
Interconnection, Unbundled Elements,)
Transport and Termination, and Resale)
)

In the Matter of the Pricing Proceeding for) Docket No. UT-960370
Interconnection, Unbundled Elements,)
Transport and Termination, and Resale for)
U S WEST Communications, Inc. - Phase II)
)

In the Matter of the Pricing Proceeding for) Docket No. UT-960371
Interconnection, Unbundled Elements,)
Transport and Termination, and Resale for)
GTE Northwest Incorporated)
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)
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TESTIMONY OF

BARBARA J. BROHL

ON BEHALF OF U S WEST

JANUARY 31, 2000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this testimony and associated exhibits is to provide a detailed explanation of the projects undertaken by U S WEST to provide Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLEC) with access to U S WEST's Operational Support Systems (OSS) as ordered by this Commission on October 30, 1999.¹ This testimony discusses:

What OSS are and the types of systems and associated systems development projects that

U S WEST has undertaken to provide OSS access to CLECs,

The types of costs associated with these systems development efforts,

The difference between startup and on-going maintenance costs,

And in the attached exhibits, detailed descriptions of each systems development project for

which U S WEST seeks cost recovery, and why these projects are eligible for cost recovery.

The exhibits attached to this testimony provide task level detail for each OSS project included as line items in the cost studies filed by Teresa K. Million.

¹ See *In the Matter of Pricing Proceeding for Interconnection, Unbundled Elements, Transport and Termination, and Resale*, WUTC Docket No. UT-960369, and *In the Matter of Pricing Proceeding for Interconnection, Unbundled Elements, Transport and Termination, and Resale for U S WEST*, WUTC Docket No. UT-960370, and *In the Matter of Pricing Proceeding for Interconnection, Unbundled Elements, Transport and Termination, and Resale for GTE Northwest Incorporated*, WUTC Docket No. UT-960371 ¶ 109 (rel. Oct. 30, 1999), (17th Supplemental Order: *Interim Order Determining Prices; Notice of Prehearing Conference*).

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I.IDENTIFICATION OF WITNESS

PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

My name is Barbara J. Brohl. My business address is 1999 Broadway, 10th Floor,
Denver, Colorado 80202.

BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?

I am employed by U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) as a Director in the
Information Technologies Wholesale Systems Regulatory Support Group.

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR WORK EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION.

Currently, my responsibilities include identifying and managing regulatory issues involving
U S WEST's operational support systems (OSS) as a result of the Telecommunications
Act of 1996, FCC orders, state commission decisions, and other legal and regulatory
matters. Prior to my current assignment, I was involved in application development
projects for 15 years in a variety of roles: programming and systems development,
systems architecture, and project management. Each role is an essential step in
traditional software development life cycle. In addition, I managed the Information
Technologies department's compliance with the restrictions of the Modification of
Final Judgment and the requirements of Open Network Architecture. During that time,
I became certified by the Institute for Certification of Computing Professionals (ICCP)
as a Certified Computing Professional (CCP), and then received a Bachelor of Science
Degree in Business / Computer Science from Regis University in 1991. In 1995, I
received a Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of Denver, School of Law. I
then left U S WEST for approximately two years to work as a judicial law clerk for the
Colorado Supreme Court. Since my return to U S WEST, I have worked in the
Wholesale Systems Regulatory Support group in the Information Technologies
organization.

28

II.INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

The purpose of my testimony is to provide the information requested by the
Washington Utility and Transportation Commission (The Commission) in its 17th
Supplemental Order issued on October 30, 1999. The Commission requested greater
detail regarding the costs of the projects undertaken by U S WEST to provide access to
its Operational Support Systems (OSS) to Competitive Local Exchange Carriers

34

1 (CLECs) as required by the FCC in its First Report and Order² under the mandate of the
2 Telecommunications Act of 1996.³ While this Commission found that U S WEST was entitled to
3 recover the cost of providing OSS access⁴, it did so on an interim basis. As the Commission requested, I
4 will provide greater detail regarding the estimating and tracking of U S WEST's OSS projects.⁵ This will
5 establish the validity of the costs that U S WEST has and will incur to provide required OSS access to the
6 CLECs.
7

8 **III. OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS BACKGROUND**

9 10 **WHAT ARE OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS?**

11 U S WEST uses a variety of computer systems to support the operations of its
12 telecommunications business. An operational support system is a computer system that
13 does not directly provide telecommunications service to customers, but supports employees
14 performing "operational" duties, such as issuing service orders, testing trunks and
15 maintaining switching systems. These operational support systems are specialized; each
16 performs different functions. Certain operational support systems allow for the ordering
17 of products and services for customers, and others record and process trouble tickets. There
18 are many other operational support systems that provide a wide variety of other functions.
19

20 **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FCC REGARDING** 21 **OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND ELECTRONIC INTERFACES?**

22 In its First Report and Order⁶, the FCC required U S WEST to unbundle its operational support
23 systems and provide electronic interfaces to support pre-ordering, ordering and provisioning, maintenance
24 and repair, and billing for resold products and unbundled elements. It was also necessary for U S WEST to
25 provide support for collocation in order to process requests for collocation and for billing of that function.

26 In order to meet the FCC's requirements, U S WEST had to change its operational support systems
27 to support:

28 a multi-vendor environment, and
29 the introduction of unbundled elements, resale products and collocation functions, which essentially are new
30 products and services.

² See *In the Matter of Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, CC Docket No. 96-98, and *In the Matter of Interconnection between Local Exchange Carriers and Commercial Mobile Radio Service Providers*, CC Docket No. 95-185, ¶ 516 (rel. Aug. 8, 1996), (*FCC First Report and Order*).

³ Telecommunications Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56, *codified at* 47 U.S.C. §§ 151 *et seq.* (*Telecom Act*), §251.

⁴ 17th *Supplemental Order: Interim Order Determining Prices; Notice of Prehearing Conference*, ¶ 100.

⁵ 17th *Supplemental Order: Interim Order Determining Prices; Notice of Prehearing Conference*, ¶ 90.

⁶ *FCC First Report and Order*. ¶ 516.

1 These changes have caused U S WEST to incur extraordinary costs. I will describe the necessary
2 changes in the existing systems and then discuss electronic interfaces and their associated costs.
3

4 **WAS WORK NECESSARY ON EXISTING OPERATIONAL SUPPORT**
5 **SYSTEMS TO COMPLY WITH THE FCC REQUIREMENTS?**

6 Yes. Certain operational support systems (OSS) had to be modified to add data about
7 CLECs and to add the functionality necessary to handle that data. For example,
8 U S WEST's service order processors (SOPs), which are OSS, were designed to handle
9 U S WEST service orders. Now, service orders must be properly associated with a reseller.
10 This requires a unique code. The SOPs had to be modified to handle this new data
11 element. Another example is the creation of new universal service order codes (USOCs)
12 and field identifiers (FIDs) to support resale products and their placement into the service
13 order processing and billing production environments. USOCs and FIDs are codes that are
14 put on service orders in order to allow systems to provision and bill for products and
15 services.
16

17 **WHAT HAS U S WEST DONE TO DATE IN ORDER TO MEET THE**
18 **REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE FCC?**

19 As discussed in prior testimony, U S WEST has made and will continue to make
20 modifications in the following categories:
21

22 **Unbundling** - Unbundling allows a CLEC to obtain facilities from U S WEST at an
23 unbundled rate. Unbundled network elements include the unbundled loop, local
24 switching, transport elements and line ports. Capacity in various OSS had to be
25 expanded to handle the additional data that identifies the unbundled elements and
26 their features and to allow for their ordering, provisioning, repair and billing.
27 Additionally, various tasks were completed on many systems. Such tasks include
28 changes to systems such as, RSOLAR/SOLAR/SOPAD and SONAR⁷ (to
29 accommodate additional Universal Service Order Codes (USOCs) and Master Customer Numbers,
30 and associated edits), and adding the ability to test unbundled loops in the Mechanized Loop Test
31 (MLT) system. See Confidential Exhibit BJB-02 for further detailed descriptions of the projects
32 initiated to support unbundling for CLECs.
33

34 **Rebundling** - Rebundling occurs when a CLEC wants to provide service to a customer and employs
35 unbundled elements. In this case, the rebundling of unbundled elements gives service to
36 that customer. Unbundled rates continue to apply. In the unbundling project scheduled
37 for 1999, capacity will be increased on the same systems as mentioned in the resale and
38 unbundling categories. Capacity will be expanded to handle the additional data that
39 identifies unbundled elements and their features requiring rebundling. Examples of

1 ⁷ RSOLAR (Regional Service Order Logistics and Reference), SOLAR (Service Order
2 Logistics and Reference), SOPAD (Service Order Processor and Distribution), SONAR
3 (Service Order Negotiation and Retrieval).

1 systems to be changed include Customer Account Retrieval Systems (CARS)
2 (programming changes to allow for the production of reports on outside plant troubles for
3 unbundled elements), DELIVER (adding alternate provider information on pertinent
4 screens) and Mechanized Installation History Reporting (MIHR) (marking missed
5 installation credit data with reseller identifiers so that proper treatment can occur in
6 Customer Records Information System (CRIS)). See Confidential Exhibit BJB-03 for
7 detailed descriptions of the projects created to support rebundling for CLECs.
8

9 **Local Interconnect Services (LIS)** - LIS trunks are the interoffice facilities supporting interconnection
10 traffic. Capacity was increased for TIRKS (trunk inventory) and WFA (circuit installation
11 management and repair). For example, additional capacity was needed to support new data
12 identifying traffic by a CLEC. An example of an additional task was updating the routing
13 tables in the repair systems so that those systems would recognize the unique codes
14 identifying each CLEC. Please see Confidential Exhibit BJB-04 for detailed descriptions
15 of projects initiated to support LIS for CLECs.
16

17 **Collocation** - Collocation permits a CLEC's equipment to reside in leased space within a U S WEST central
18 office. Specific examples of systems work include modifying the billing systems and the
19 service order processors to mechanize the billing for collocation. Please refer to
20 Confidential Exhibit BJB-05 for detailed information regarding projects initiated to create
21 the system changes necessary to support collocation.
22

23 **Systems Access** - This term is used to describe the work and functions involved in creating and enhancing
24 the human-to-computer and computer-to-computer interfaces. These interfaces allow a
25 CLEC to access U S WEST's OSS to perform pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning,
26 maintenance and repair, and billing functions. All of the software development tasks
27 required to make these changes were included in these projects. Examples include
28 defining functional requirements, producing design specifications, coding modules,
29 developing and executing test scripts, planning and building interface releases, and moving
30 application code into production environments. See Confidential Exhibit BJB-06 for
31 further details regarding the projects initiated to create systems access for CLECs.
32

33 **Cross Product Projects** - Some projects involved efforts that applied to all products offered by U S WEST
34 to the CLECs. These projects have been classified as cross program projects. One
35 example is the expansion of U S WEST mainframe capacity to handle the increased data
36 and access by CLEC representatives. See Confidential Exhibit BJB-07 for detailed
37 descriptions of cross product projects.
38

39 **Resale** - Costs associated with projects for resale have been removed from the start-up cost charge
40 calculated in the cost study submitted by Teresa K. Million. However, because these
41 projects are listed in the detail of our cost study, and they have been included in our prior
42 filings, they are included here for descriptive purposes only. Resale allows a CLEC to
43 serve a customer with a finished service at a resale rate. The capacity or the ability to
44 process work volumes, of many existing systems has been increased to account for the
45 increased activity level and the need for additional storage of data. Such systems include
46 CRIS (billing), BOSS/CARS (customer service records), RSOLAR/SOLAR/SOPAD
47 (service order processors), FACS (facilities availability), TIRKS (trunk inventory),
48 LMOS/WFA (repair). In addition, there are other tasks that must be performed on
49 systems. For example, in 1998 the Listing Services System (LSS) had to be modified to
50 provide recording and billing of CLEC ordered wholesale listings. Another example

1 would be that the Service Order Negotiating and Retrieval system (SONAR) and the
2 service order processors, RSOLAR/SOLAR/SOPAD, had to be changed to add reseller
3 IDs and associated resale edits. See Confidential Exhibit BJB-08 for more detailed
4 information regarding the status of projects initiated to provide resale support for CLECs.
5

6 Please refer to Confidential Exhibits BJB-02 through BJB-08 for detailed discussions of all OSS Projects.
7 All of these exhibits now include Project Numbers so that the data in this testimony can more readily be
8 cross-referenced with the cost studies filed by Teresa K. Million. The purpose of all of these exhibits is to
9 provide a detailed illustration of the work that U S WEST has performed to comply with the mandates of the
10 FCC and this commission.⁸
11

12 **DO THE CLECS BENEFIT FROM THE ENHANCEMENTS TO OSS YOU**
13 **HAVE DESCRIBED?**

14 Yes. The modifications to OSS were made to better enable CLECs to interconnect and
15 resell U S WEST's telecommunications services. For example, the new USOCs and FIDs
16 U S WEST has created for the order entry, provisioning and billing systems enable CLECs
17 to bill these products to their customers at a price of the CLECs' choice. Also, new
18 reporting functionality had to be created so that U S WEST can provide daily reports
19 showing the customers that each CLEC has lost. This allows CLECs to determine their
20 loss rate and perhaps fine-tune marketing campaigns and revise business processes. The
21 report also tells the CLEC to stop billing the end-user customer. Another example of a
22 modification for the CLECs' benefit involves expanding the capacity of certain operational
23 support systems. In order to handle the increased traffic caused by CLEC transactions, the
24 capacity of many systems had to be increased. This action allows for the processing of
25 CLEC transactions, which facilitate their business functions.
26

27 **DOES U S WEST BENEFIT FROM THESE ENHANCEMENTS?**

28 No. U S WEST has been servicing its customers without the enhanced functionality
29 described earlier. The modifications do not add any efficiencies or cost savings to
30 U S WEST's business. On the contrary, the additional functionality and the additional data
31 and systems infrastructure make increased demands on U S WEST's resources and require
32 U S WEST to operate and maintain this more complex systems environment.
33

34 **COSTS**

35
36 **WHAT OSS COSTS DOES U S WEST SEEK TO RECOVER IN THIS**
37 **PROCEEDING?**

38 U S WEST is requesting that (1) start-up costs related to the development of the human-
39 to-computer and computer-to-computer interfaces, and (2) modifications of existing

1 ⁸17th Supplemental Order: Interim Order Determining Prices; Notice of Prehearing
2 Conference, ¶ 109.

1 operational support systems costs be recovered. Additionally, U S WEST seeks
2 reimbursement of the ongoing maintenance and operations costs of the human-to-computer
3 and computer-to-computer interfaces.

4
5 **CAN U S WEST VALIDATE THE COSTS INCURRED TO DATE?**

6 Yes. U S WEST Information Technologies currently tracks all of its costs by project.
7 Projects were established at the beginning of 1996 that are associated with the various
8 product types - resale, unbundled loop, LIS, etc. Confidential Exhibits BJB-02 through
9 BJB-08 describe each project in detail by project category. Included in each project
10 narrative are the project description and purpose as well as all major sub-tasks
11 accomplished within the project. If the project spanned multiple years, the tasks are
12 reported according to the year in which they were accomplished or are planned. This detail
13 correlates with the project lists provided previously by Dean Buhler for this docket.

14
15 **HOW DOES U S WEST ESTIMATE THE COST OF A PROJECT?**

16 When a business need is identified, appropriate business experts collect the requirements
17 from the individuals making the request to meet the need. This is known as an idea
18 assessment. After the requestor has approved the idea assessment it is passed on to a
19 systems analyst or team of systems analysts who create a document known as a work
20 request. This document outlines the technical requirements and defines the overall
21 technical solution necessary to meet the requirements. It is from this information that
22 a project manager can make an estimate of the cost of the project. This estimate
23 includes estimated labor hours, expenses and capital required for the project. The labor
24 hours can be estimated based on experience with similar tasks, and is based on
25 knowledge of the systems to be created or changed to meet the business need.

26
27 **HOW DOES U S WEST TRACK THE ACTUAL COST OF A PROJECT?**

28 Once a project is initiated, it is assigned a project code, and is entered into the Business
29 Management System (BMS), along with projected expenses. All expenses related to
30 this project will then be fed into BMS. All persons who work on the project enter their
31 time into a time reporting system known as EZWARP. They enter their time by project
32 code. This information is then transmitted from EZWARP into BMS through a
33 monthly batch process. All expenditures including capital and equipment purchases
34 are assigned by project code as well, and this too is entered into BMS. In this way, it
35 is possible to keep track of actual costs for all activities by project, and to track actual
36 performance against budgeted.

37
38 **Q. CAN YOU GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF COSTS INCURRED FOR A SPECIFIC**
39 **PROJECT AND HOW THOSE COSTS WERE TRACKED?**

40 Yes. In 1998, project number 14692ZZ was established in order to provide flow-through
41 for orders. This project was categorized as a system access project, because it involved

1 processing of orders from any source through to the downstream OSS electronically.
2 A detailed description of this project can be found in Confidential Exhibit BJB-06. All
3 direct, labor, and capital expenses were recorded in BMS, which is the ultimate source
4 of the inputs to the cost study prepared by Teresa K. Million. In BMS this project was
5 entitled 'IMA Order Flow-Through.' For this project, IMA referred to the gateway as
6 a whole, not just to the GUI interface or the EDI. The work done here involved efforts
7 to make sure that no matter how LSRs were entered, they would make their way
8 electronically to the downstream OSS for action. Based on the ultimate purpose of the
9 project, its costs were allocated as shared.

10
11 All time spent by programmers on this project was entered into the EZWARP time-
12 keeping tool, using codes to identify the work as belonging to this project. These hours
13 were then sent to BMS on a monthly basis. All direct and capital expenses were also tied
14 to codes linked to this project and entered into BMS. The programmers' hours are then
15 multiplied by an unloaded rate to arrive at the inputs provided for this project in the cost
16 study. Because work on this project remained at the end of the year, the same project
17 number was entered into BMS in 1999. It is reflected as a line item in the projected costs
18 for 1999 OSS development.

19
20 **HOW DOES U S WEST PROPOSE TO RECOVER THE START-UP COSTS?**

21 U S WEST proposes a per service order charge for the recovery of start-up costs.
22

23 **HOW DOES U S WEST PROPOSE TO RECOVER THE COSTS INCURRED**
24 **FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS ACTIVITIES?**

25 U S WEST is proposing to establish a per service order charge for recovery of on-going
26 maintenance and operations of the human-to-computer and computer-to-computer
27 interfaces.
28

29 **WHY DOES U S WEST PROPOSE PER SERVICE ORDER CHARGES**
30 **RATHER THAN PER LOCAL SERVICE REQUEST (LSR) CHARGES?**

31 U S WEST decided to recover start-up and ongoing maintenance and operations costs
32 on a per service order basis because service order volumes are predictable, have been
33 tracked for decades, have systems and processes in place for reporting purposes, and are
34 predictable from line loss forecasts.
35

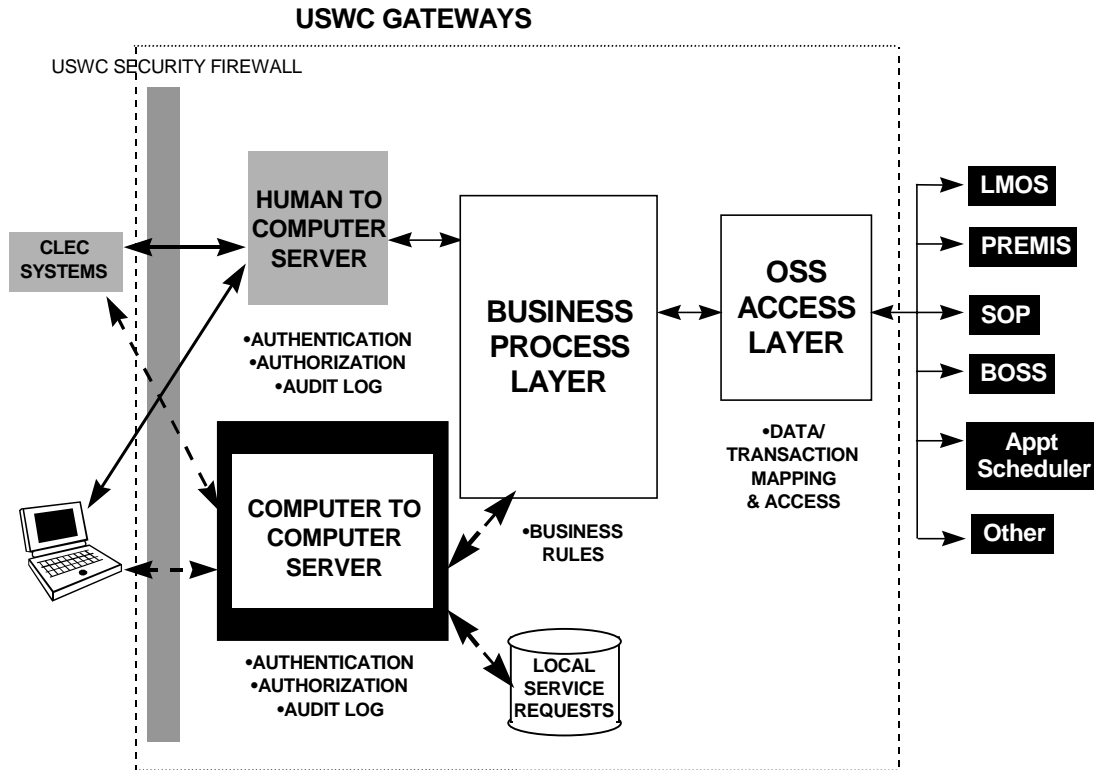
36 **Q. CAN ALL OF THE OSS-RELATED START-UP COSTS BE SEPARATED**
37 **BETWEEN THE IMA GUI AND THE IMA EDI ELECTRONIC INTERFACES?**

38 No. There are OSS-related costs that can be attributed solely to the development of the
39 IMA GUI electronic interface, as well as OSS-related costs that can be attributed solely
40 to the development of the IMA EDI electronic interface. However, as shown in the
41 following diagram, USWC MEDIATED ACCESS ARCHITECTURE, once the pre-

1 order, order, or repair request passes through either the human-to-computer server or
2 the computer-to-computer server, the rest of the gateway structure is shared. In other
3 words, the same business process layer (BPL) applies the business rules to the request,
4 and the same OSS access layer (OAL) parses down the request and directs it to the
5 appropriate downstream OSS, which are utilized regardless of whether the initial
6 request was received manually, through IMA, or through the EDI. Certain changes had
7 to be made to these shared downstream OSS so that all requests could access the
8 systems appropriately. These changes are outlined in the project descriptions contained
9 in Confidential Exhibits BJB-02 through BJB-08. The costs for these changes have
10 therefore been classified as shared. The Commission ordered that separate charges be
11 developed for IMA GUI costs (referred to by the commission as ‘manual’ and
12 encompassing GUI, faxed, and manual orders) and EDI costs (referred to by the
13 commission as ‘electronic’).⁹ Those costs that can be attributed solely to the IMA GUI electronic
14 interface or to the EDI electronic interface are thus reflected separately where applicable in the start-up
15 charges discussed below. Those projects that could not be attributed solely to the IMA GUI or the EDI
16 are considered shared. These shared costs are also reflected in the startup charges discussed below.
17

1 ⁹17th Supplemental Order: Interim Order Determining Prices; Notice of Prehearing
2 Conference, ¶ 112.

USWC MEDIATED ACCESS ARCHITECTURE



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2

3
4

START-UP COSTS

PLEASE DESCRIBE START-UP COSTS.

5
6 Start-up costs are one-time costs related to modifying existing operational support
7 systems and developing new operational support systems. Start-up costs are also
8 associated with establishing electronic interfaces including design and construction costs.
9 There are two types of start-up costs: expense and capital. Expense costs include salaries,
10 benefits and overhead for employees who identify business needs, define systems to
11 support those needs, project manage or design the systems, as well as code and test them.
12 Expense costs also include charges for the purchase of software licenses and costs
13 associated with other development/modification-related tasks. Capital costs include the
14 cost of computer equipment ("hardware"), computer software, telecommunications links,
15 and/or labor expenses incurred in setup of this hardware. Both expense and capital start-up
16 costs apply to the projects described in my testimony and exhibits.

17

DO STARTUP COSTS INCLUDE TRANSACTION COSTS?

18
19 No. In its order, the Commission noted it believes Non-Recurring Costs are designed to

1 recover transaction costs, such as the taking of an order.¹⁰ But the startup costs
2 U S WEST seeks to recover do not include transaction costs. The startup costs presented here are
3 based entirely on the costs of developing and implementing CLEC access to U S WEST's OSSs. The
4 startup costs reported here do not include any element of the cost of a transaction, i.e. the cost to take
5 an order.
6

7 **IF STARTUP COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE TRANSACTION COSTS, WILL**
8 **THE COST OF PLACING AN ORDER CHANGE BASED ON HOW**
9 **STARTUP COSTS ARE BILLED?**

10 No. U S WEST must recover the same amount of money whether this one-time pool of
11 startup costs is recovered with a charge per service order or a charge per type of
12 UNE ordered. This is explained further in the testimony of Teresa K. Million,
13 which outlines how the startup charge is derived.
14

15 **HOW MUCH HAS U S WEST ACTUALLY SPENT IN START-UP COSTS FOR**
16 **THE ELECTRONIC INTERFACES AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS**
17 **WORK?**

18
19 In 1997, U S WEST spent \$23,707,092 across U S WEST's fourteen state region. In
20 1998, U S WEST spent \$42,833,221 across U S WEST's fourteen state region.
21 U S WEST will ask for the recovery of additional costs, periodically, as they are
22 incurred, until all start-up costs are recovered.
23

24 **HOW MUCH DOES U S WEST ESTIMATE THAT IT WILL SPEND IN**
25 **ADDITIONAL START-UP COSTS FOR HUMAN-TO-COMPUTER AND**
26 **COMPUTER-TO-COMPUTER INTERFACES AND OPERATIONAL**
27 **SUPPORT SYSTEMS WORK?**

28 At this time, the total amount expected to be spent in 1999 across U S WEST's
29 fourteen state region is \$82,660,169.
30

31 Technical project managers who worked collaboratively with their technical teams to
32 project the number of hours derived work estimates by work task. The estimates of hours
33 were multiplied by the applicable labor rate. The results were totaled to produce
34 summarized costs by project and product categories.
35

36 For a further detailed breakdown of costs, please refer to Confidential Exhibit BJB-1.
37 The costs in this exhibit represent system dollars that were spent in 1997 and 1998 and
38 those that are projected to be spent in 1999. The system dollars are broken down by

1 10 1017th Supplemental Order: Interim Order Determining Prices; Notice of Prehearing
2 Conference, ¶ 475.

1 product type (e.g. collocation, unbundling, etc.) for each of the three years.
2

3

4 **MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS COSTS**

5

6 **PLEASE DESCRIBE ONGOING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS COSTS.**

7 U S WEST will also incur ongoing maintenance and operations costs associated with the
8 usage of OSS and the interfaces. These costs are incurred in performing minor changes to
9 the electronic interfaces' software programs and running OSS and the interfaces on a daily
10 basis. Examples include salaries and travel and training expenses for people involved in
11 making table updates, resolving error conditions, starting up the application software and
12 other maintenance-and-operations-related tasks. U S WEST does operate and maintain the
13 human-to-computer interfaces (IMA, fax, and manual) and the computer-to-computer
14 (EDI) interface solely for the benefit of the CLECs. The interfaces enable the CLECs to
15 compete and would be of no value to the CLECs if they were not properly maintained;
16 therefore, the ongoing maintenance and operations dollars should be recovered from
17 CLECs. The maintenance and operations cost of the electronic interfaces is included in a
18 per service order charge discussed in the supplemental testimony of Teresa K. Million.
19
20

21 **VII.CONCLUSION**

22

23 **COULD YOU PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

24

25 Recovery of operational support system costs is provided by the Federal
26 Telecommunications Act of 1996.¹¹ Building of the interfaces has been undertaken by U S WEST
27 in accordance with regulatory mandate for the sole benefit of CLECs. Therefore, U S WEST is entitled
28 to recover the OSS costs as proposed in this proceeding, and conditionally approved in the Commission's
29 order.¹²
30

31 Many changes to U S WEST's operational support systems are needed to allow CLECs to
32 compete in the local exchange markets. New interfaces have been built that will allow CLECs'
33 employees to communicate with U S WEST's operational support systems in the categories of pre-
34 ordering, ordering, maintenance and repair. Together, the operational support systems and the new
35 interfaces support CLEC operations.

1 ¹¹ Telecommunications Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56, *codified at* 47
2 U.S.C. §§ 151 *et seq.* (*Telecom Act*), §251.

1 ¹²17th *Supplemental Order: Interim Order Determining Prices; Notice of Prehearing*
2 *Conference*, ¶ 539.

1
2 U S WEST has incurred and will continue to incur start-up costs to change its operational support
3 systems and develop electronic interfaces. This work is massive and time consuming.
4

5 Both the human-to-computer and the computer-to-computer interfaces are up and running and have
6 had scheduled implementations during 1999 which have provided additional functionality. U S WEST would
7 recover the on-going costs of providing the maintenance and operations costs of the human-to-computer and
8 computer-to-computer interfaces in a per order charge billed on a monthly basis.
9

10 U S WEST would recover the start-up costs related to deploying the human-to-computer and
11 computer-to-computer interfaces and enhancing its OSS using a per order charge.
12

13 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

14 Yes, it does.