

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of	)	DOCKET UT-961262
United Telephone Company of the	)	
Northwest d/b/a Sprint requesting authority	)	ORDER GRANTING
to become a primary toll carrier	)	PETITION
.....)	)	

On October 4, 1996, United Telephone Company of the Northwest d/b/a Sprint (United) filed a petition with the Commission pursuant to RCW 80.01.040 and WAC 480-09-420(7).

The petitioner is requesting to become the primary toll carrier (PTC) in its service territory. This petition is authorized by the Eighteenth Supplemental Order in Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone Company, et al., Cause No. U-85-23. Under its proposal, United would replace U S WEST Communications, Inc. (USWC) the carrier of originating intraLATA toll traffic from its service areas.

On October 4, 1996, United also filed certain tariff revisions designed to effect the assumption of PTC status if approved by the Commission. The company filed certain tariff revisions pursuant to Staff's request.

In Docket UT-961263 United proposes to establish Tariff WN U-2 containing rates and conditions for intraLATA toll service and deleting concurrences in USWC's tariff WN U-3 for intraexchange: intraLATA private lines, IntraLATA Wide Area Telephone Service (WATS), Message Toll Service (MTS) and Public Communication Service tariffs with the exception of Toll Personalized Area Calling (Toll-PAC). In Docket UT-961264 United proposed revisions to its access tariff WN U-8 in conjunction with becoming a PTC. This filing reduces United's access rates by approximately 40 percent. The company is decreasing its local transport rates in an effort to maintain consistency between dedicated transport services (special access) and switched access transport. United is also assuming responsibility for intrastate intraLATA private line service from USWC.

In conjunction with becoming a PTC, United will exit the Washington Exchange Carrier Association (WECA) carrier common line (CCL) pool. As a result, tariff revisions are included to add carrier common line language and rates to United's access tariff. United's proposed CCL rate is less than WECA's current CCL rate. However, the company will continue to bill and remit the WECA universal service fund rate.

United's proposed MTS toll tariff condenses USWC's six mileage bands down to four mileage bands, eliminates the initial/subsequent minute rate differences and offers two new optional calling plans.

In this petition United has committed to implementing intraLATA dialing parity no later than six months after its toll tariffs are effective, or August 8, 1997, whichever is earlier.

### FINDINGS

#### THE COMMISSION FINDS:

1. The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the state of Washington vested by statute with authority to regulate public service companies under provisions of chapter 80.36 RCW.
2. United Telephone Company of the Northwest d/b/a Sprint is engaged in the business of furnishing telecommunications service within the state of Washington as a public service company.
3. On October 4, 1996, United Telephone Company of the Northwest d/b/a Sprint filed a total of one petition and two tariffs affecting toll and access rates in its respective territories. These tariffs request an effective date of January 1, 1997. In Docket UT-961263 United proposes rates and conditions for intraLATA toll service; in Docket UT-961264 United proposes access reductions in the same territory.
4. United Telephone Company of the Northwest d/b/a Sprint is eligible to become the primary toll carrier in its service territory. As the primary toll carrier, United would be responsible for intraLATA interexchange private line service in its service area.
5. United Telephone Company of the Northwest d/b/a Sprint has agreed to cease withdrawing funds from the universal service fund once it becomes a PTC. This filing does not affect how USF is provisioned in Washington state.

### ORDER

#### THE COMMISSION THEREFORE ORDERS:

After the effective date of this order, the tariffs as revised pursuant to staff's request of United Telephone Company of the Northwest d/b/a Sprint are hereby accepted in their entirety.

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DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 30th day of December, 1996.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



STEVE McLELLAN, Secretary