BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AT&T COMMUNICATIONS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, INC.,

Complainant,

V.

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VERIZON NORTHWEST, INC.,

Respondents.

DOCKET NO. UT-020406

COMMISSION STAFF'S RESPONSE TO VERIZON'S MOTION FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE FIFTH SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER

The Commission Staff (Staff) files this in response to Verizon Northwest Inc.'s (Verizon) February 24, 2003, Motion for Clarification of the Fifth Supplemental Order Setting Scope of Proceeding; Ruling on Motions (Order), issued by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) on February 21, 2003.

In asking for clarification, Verizon misstates the Order. Verizon states that the Commission will not order any reductions in access charges as a result of "this phase" of the proceeding. Verizon's Motion, \P 3. The Staff disagrees that the Commission made such a statement.

In the Order, the Commission stated that the allegations set forth in the complaint filed by AT&T of the Pacific Northwest, Inc. (AT&T) are relevant. Order, ¶¶ 22, 25. AT&T requests that Commission reduce Verizon's access charges. Complaint, at

COMMISSION STAFF'S RESPONSE TO VERIZON'S MOTION FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE FIFTH SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER-1 15 ("AT&T prays for . . . [a]n order from the Commission requiring Verizon to reduce

its switched access service rates . . . "). The Commission retains its full authority to

order a reduction in Verizon's access charges without further proceedings if it finds

they are unjust, unreasonable, or discriminatory.

Dated: February 25, 2003

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