

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In re Application of U S WEST, INC. and
QWEST COMMUNICATIONS
INTERNATIONAL INC.

For an Order Disclaiming Jurisdiction, or in
the Alternative, Approving the U S WEST,
INC. - QWEST COMMUNICATIONS

Docket No. UT-991358

**MEMORANDUM OF COVAD AND
METRONET IN OPPOSITION TO
MODIFICATION TO BRIEFING**

Covad Communications Company ("Covad") and MetroNet Services Corporation ("MetroNet") strongly oppose the Applicants' request to shorten the briefing schedule. The briefing schedule the Applicants now seek is even more abbreviated than the briefing schedule they initially proposed at the conclusion of the hearings. The briefing schedule adopted then took into account various parties' scheduling considerations and, although it was slightly longer than the Applicants had proposed, there was consensus that it was workable for all. The new proposal is simply too abbreviated and would be prejudicial to Covad and MetroNet.

Covad and MetroNet question whether the request to shorten the briefing schedule is anything more than a ploy by the Applicants to obtain significant tactical advantages over the intervenors. However, if the Commission is truly convinced by the Applicants' asserted need to close the merger sooner, then Covad and MetroNet suggest that the Commission can accommodate this need by dispensing with the reply briefs. This would allow all parties sufficient time to review the record and prepare cogent arguments for the Commission's benefit. While it would deprive the Commission of the benefits of the second round of briefing, that would be preferable to denying the parties adequate time on the initial round. If the conclusion of briefing is as urgent as the Applicants claim, then this alternative proposal should be acceptable to the Applicants as well.

**MEMO OF COVAD & METRONET IN OPPO. TO
MODIFICATION TO BRIEFING SCHEDULE - 1**

SEADOCS:44338. 1

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DATED this 27th day of March, 2000.

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**MEMO OF COVAD & METRONET IN OPPO. TO
MODIFICATION TO BRIEFING SCHEDULE - 2**

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