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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Request for Competitive Classification  
of Basic Business Exchange Telecommunications  
Services

Docket No. UT-030614

**QWEST CORPORATION'S RESPONSE  
TO PUBLIC COUNSEL'S REQUEST FOR  
PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Qwest Corporation ("Qwest"), by and through its undersigned attorneys, hereby responds to Public Counsel's July 28, 2003 motion requesting the Commission to schedule at least two public comment hearings in this case. This response is provided pursuant to the Commission's July 29, 2003 notice.

Qwest agrees with Public Counsel that public hearings would be appropriate in this case and will allow business customers to express their views on the issues involved in this docket. In its motion, Public Counsel recommended public hearings in Olympia and in Walla Walla. Qwest concurs that the Olympia venue would be appropriate and efficient, especially if scheduled to occur at the end of a hearing day.

With regard to the other location, Qwest would recommend that a public hearing be conducted in Spokane, either in lieu of or in addition to a public hearing in Walla Walla, as recommended by Public Counsel. Because Spokane has a population that is between six and seven times larger than Walla Walla,

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Qwest would expect that a greater diversity of business customers will be able to appear and participate at a Spokane public hearing. That said, Qwest would support conducting public hearings in both eastern Washington locations if the Commission believed that to be worthwhile.

DATED this 4th day of August, 2003.

QWEST CORPORATION

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