

February 13, 2007

VIA E-MAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Carole Washburn
Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Pk. Dr. S.W.
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: In the Matter of the Petition of Qwest Corporation, To be Regulated Under an Alternative
Form of Regulation Pursuant to RCW 80.36.135
Docket No. UT-061625

Dear Ms. Washburn:

Public Counsel respectfully requests that the Commission assign a qualified employee to act as a mediator in this proceeding, pursuant to WAC 480-07-710. While some settlement discussions have already occurred, Public Counsel believes that appointment of a mediator would be both valuable and productive in aiding the further progress of settlement discussions with respect to the more difficult issues we have encountered. Given the range of issues and their significance for the long term interests of both the Company and its customers, we believe it would be worthwhile to bring in this resource as an additional effort to reach a negotiated resolution to present to the Commission for consideration. Public Counsel is not requesting an alteration in the schedule for this purpose, although parties could request that later if settlement makes progress.

Public Counsel has polled the parties regarding their support for this request. WeBTEC, the Joint CLECs, NPCC and DOD/FEA indicate they have no objection. Qwest has stated that it opposes the request. Public Counsel has discussed the matter with Staff but, as of the time of filing, Staff has not stated a position on the request.

Respectfully submitted,

Simon J. ffitch
Assistant Attorney General
Public Counsel Section
(206) 389-2055

Sf:cjw
cc: Service List (U.S. Mail and Email)