

May 15, 2003

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON PROCESS
FOR COMMISSION'S SIX-MONTH REVIEW OF QWEST'S
PERFORMANCE ASSURANCE PLAN (QPAP)
(May 30, 2003)**

RE: In the Matter of the Six-Month Review of Qwest Corporation's Performance Assurance Plan, Docket No. UT-033020.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

On July 1, 2002, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) approved Qwest Corporation's (Qwest) Statement of Generally Available Terms, or SGAT, in its 39th Supplemental Order in Docket Nos. UT-003022 and UT-003040. In the same order, the Commission approved Qwest's Performance Assurance Plan, or QPAP, included in the SGAT as Exhibit K. Section 16.1 of the QPAP provides that "Every six (6) months, beginning six months after the effective date of Section 271 approval by the [Federal Communications Commission] FCC for the state of Washington, Qwest, [competitive local exchange companies] CLECs, and the Commission shall participate in a review" of certain aspects of the QPAP. The FCC approved Qwest's application under Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 on December 23, 2002.

As the QPAP became effective on December 23, 2002, the first six-month review of the QPAP should begin in late June 2003. In order to effectively prepare for such a proceeding before the Commission, the Commission seeks comments from interested persons concerning the process, timing, and scope of issues to be addressed during the first six-month review.

Please submit your responses to the questions set forth below, as well as any other comments on the six-month review process, to the Commission by the close of business on May 30, 2003.

1. The Long Term PID Administration (LTPA) governing documents have recently been finalized, and the LTPA process will soon begin. The LTPA process will not address all issues identified for the six-month review in Section 16.1 of the QPAP. If Washington State participates in the LTPA process, when should the Commission begin its six-month review process? Should we begin our proceeding in late June, or wait for the LTPA process before beginning proceedings in Washington State?
2. What specific issues do you believe the Commission should consider in its six-month review of the QPAP? For example, are there particular performance measures or sections of the QPAP that should be addressed?
3. What type of process should the Commission establish to consider proposals from parties during the six-month review, *i.e.*, a paper record, workshop process, or formal hearing?
4. If you prefer a workshop or formal hearing process, how many days of hearing would you require to present your position or discuss the issues? Would you prefer that the Commissioners be present at the hearing or workshop, or should an administrative law judge preside without the Commissioners?
5. If you prefer a workshop process or hearing led only by an administrative law judge, should the Commission schedule a time for presenting issues to the Commissioners for review?
6. Do you anticipate sponsoring a witness to testify during the six-month review process, or do you plan to submit only written comments? If you anticipate sponsoring a witness, do you plan to submit pre-filed testimony, or have the witness present direct testimony on the record?
7. Should parties file comments or briefs prior to the proceeding or at the conclusion of the proceeding?
8. Should the Commission set a deadline for concluding the proceeding? Should the Commission establish an expedited schedule for the six-month review proceeding or allow the proceeding to progress at its own pace?

Your comments and responses to these questions will assist the Commission in developing and scheduling the six-month review proceeding in Washington. Soon after the Commission receives comments in response to this notice, the Commission will

schedule a prehearing conference to determine the process and schedule for the six-month review proceeding.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (360) 664-1144 or via e-mail at arendahl@wutc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

ANN E. RENDAHL
Administrative Law Judge