

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AT&T COMMUNICATIONS OF	)	DOCKET NO. UT-020406
THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST,	)	
INC.,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	NOTICE OF PREHEARING
v.	)	CONFERENCE
	)	(April 3, 2003)
VERIZON NORTHWEST, INC.,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
.....	)	

1 On March 5, 2003, the Commission received a joint settlement proposal filed by AT&T, WorldCom, Verizon and Commission Staff in the above matter. On March 6, 2003, Public Counsel filed its Opposition to Settlement, Motion to Strike, and Objection to Hearing.

2 The Stipulation is a "multiparty settlement" as defined in WAC 480-09-466 (2)(c). Under the terms of that rule, an agreement of some, but not all, parties on one or more issues may be offered as their position in the proceeding, with the evidentiary proof that they believe appropriate to support it, for Commission review.

3 The Commission received the proposal at a hearing session in this docket on March 7, 2003. The proposal would resolve the issues originally noticed in this docket but *inter alia* would also affect other rates and charges of Verizon. In summary, the proposal if implemented would result in the following changes:

- 1. Verizon would be allowed to increase other rates by \$27.9 million. The specific rates Verizon would be allowed to increase are:
  - a. Establish a late payment charge of 1.5%;
  - b. Reduce the current number of free directory assistance calls by one for residential and business customers;
  - c. Increase the directory assistance billed rate to \$1.25;

- d. Increase the residential flat and package rates by \$2.00 per month;
- e. Increase business B1 rates by \$2.50 per month; and
- f. Increase private line 2-wire rate to \$29.15, increase 4-wire private line rate to \$45.47, increase digital data service rate to \$105.25, and increase special transport for above items to \$5.12.

The full settlement proposal with all attachments, is available from the Commission's web site at [www.wutc.wa.gov/020406](http://www.wutc.wa.gov/020406) or on request from the Commission's record center or from Verizon.

- 4 On March 19, 2003, the Commission entered its Sixth Supplemental Order Determining to Review Settlement. In the order the Commission decided that it would consider whether to approve the proposal. *WAC 480-09-466(2)(a)*. Pursuant to *WAC 480-09-465(1)* and *WAC 480-466*, the Commission has the discretion to accept or reject the proposal. The ultimate issue in this phase of the proceeding is whether the Commission should accept or reject the multiparty settlement proposal.
- 5 A prehearing conference will be convened on April 3, 2003, to address procedural aspects of reviewing the settlement proposal. The purpose of the conference is to consider procedural matters identified in *WAC 480-09-460(1)*, and such other relevant procedural matters as the participants or the Commission may raise. The Commission finds good cause to set this session in less than twenty days, as allowed by *WAC 480-09-700*. The first prehearing conference in this docket was held on June 12, 2002. The purpose of this notice is to expand the notice to inform interested persons of the broad scope of issues addressed in the proposed settlement. The Commission balances this need against the need to move forward efficiently in the ongoing complaint case.
- 6 **NOTICE IS GIVEN that a prehearing conference in this matter will be held at 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, April 3, 2003 in the Commission's Hearing Room, Room 206, Chandler Plaza Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.**
- 7 Please see the form attached to this notice, which should be filled out and returned if any party or witness needs an interpreter or other assistance. The

names and mailing addresses of all parties and their known representatives are as follows:

Complainant: AT&T Communications of the Pacific  
Northwest  
1875 Lawrence Street, Fl 15  
Denver, CO 80202

Representative: Gregory J. Kopta  
Attorney at Law  
Davis Wright Tremaine  
2600 Century Square  
1501 Fourth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

Respondent: Verizon Northwest, Inc.  
1800-41<sup>st</sup> Street  
Everett, WA 98201

Representative: Judith Endejan  
Attorney at Law  
Graham & Dunn, PC  
1420 Fifth Avenue, Fl 33  
Seattle, WA 98101

Intervenor: WorldCom, Inc.  
707 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3600  
Denver, CO 80202

Representative: Michel Singer Nelson  
Attorney at Law  
WorldCom, Inc.  
707 – 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 4200  
Denver, CO 80202

Commission Staff: Washington Utilities and Transportation  
Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.

PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Representative: Shannon Smith  
Assistant Attorney General  
1400 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.  
PO Box 40128  
Olympia, WA 98504-0128

Public Counsel: Robert Cromwell, Jr., and  
Simon J. ffitc,  
Assistant Attorneys General  
900 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98164

- 8 The Commission will provide, at its offices in Olympia, Washington, current records of the hearing for the use of those who may wish to review them. Notice of any other procedural phase will be given in writing or on the record as the Commission may deem appropriate during the course of this proceeding.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this \_\_\_\_ day of March, 2003

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN  
Executive Secretary

NOTICE

PLEASE BE ADVISED that the hearing facilities are accessible to interested people with disabilities; that smoking is prohibited; and that if limited English-speaking or hearing-impaired parties or witnesses are involved in a hearing and need an interpreter, a qualified interpreter will be appointed at no cost to the party or witness.

The information needed to provide an appropriate interpreter or other assistance should be designated below and returned to Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Attention: Carole J. Washburn, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., PO Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250. (SUPPLY ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION).

Docket No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Case Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hearing Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Hearing Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Language: \_\_\_\_\_

Hearing Impaired (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ (No) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need a certified sign language interpreter:

Visual \_\_\_\_\_ Tactile \_\_\_\_\_

Other type of assistance needed: \_\_\_\_\_

English-speaking person who can be contacted if there are questions:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.:(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_