

November 4, 2005

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VIA EMAIL AND OVERNIGHT MAIL

Ms. Carole Washburn
Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
1300 South Evergreen Park Dr. S.W.
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: *In the Matter of the Petition of Douglas and Jessica Rupp, et al.*
Docket No. UT-050778

Dear Ms. Washburn:

We represent Verizon Northwest, Inc. ("Verizon") in the above docket. Order No. 01, dated August 4, 2005, established a procedural schedule for this docket. Verizon is writing to request that this procedural schedule be stayed, or held in abeyance, pending a Commission decision in Docket NO. UT-050814, In the Matter of the Joint Application of Verizon Communications, Inc. and MCI, Inc. for Approval of Agreement and Plan of Merger, (the "Merger" docket). Verizon and the Commission staff have reached a multi-party settlement agreement in that docket that is subject to Commission review and approval. One of the terms of the settlement agreement could effectively resolve the Rupp Petition in the above docket. Paragraph 11 of the settlement agreement in the Merger docket states:

Verizon Northwest, Inc. ("Verizon"), will extend service to Petitioners in Docket UT-050778, and will recover costs permitted by its tariff. Verizon will not attempt to recover particular line extension costs through a line extension tariff as otherwise would be allowed by WAC 480-120-071(3), or through its interim terminating access tariff as otherwise would be allowed by WAC 480-120-071(4). Staff agrees that the settlement of UT-050778 will not serve as precedent for future line extension cases. In fulfilling this term, Verizon shall take all reasonable efforts to provide service and to obtain approvals and permits from every necessary governmental agency. Verizon is not required to spend more than \$325,000 in fulfilling this term, which is the cost Verizon estimated based

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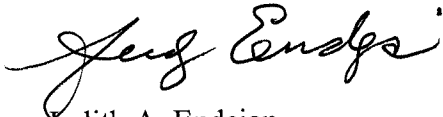
Ms. Carole Washburn
November 4, 2005
Page 2

upon the representations made in Petitioner's complaint in UT-050778. In the event that, despite all reasonable efforts, Verizon is unable to extend service within the \$325,000 limit, Verizon or staff will propose, and the Commission may approve, expenditure of a comparable amount for a similar public benefit.

Mr. Rupp, on behalf of the Petitioners, has consented to an abatement of the schedule in Docket UT-050778, as set forth in the attached email. Counsel for Commission Staff similarly consent to this abatement, as stated in a brief meeting with ALJ Karen Caille, the undersigned, and Jonathan Thompson on November 1, 2005. Therefore, Verizon respectfully requests that the schedule in Docket UT-050778 be stayed until final resolution of Docket No. UT-050814. Thank you.

Sincerely,

GRAHAM & DUNN PC



Judith A. Endejan

JAE /lav

Enc.

cc: ALJ Karen Caille
Douglas Rupp
Jonathan Thompson
Chris Swanson
Chuck Carrathers
Richard Potter

M32000-656068

Endejan, Judith A.

From: Douglas B Rupp [rupp@gnat.com]
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2005 5:42 PM
To: Endejan, Judith A.
Subject: UT-050778 Suspension

Ms. Endejan,

I read the pertinent section of the UT-050814 Multiparty Settlement Agreement filed 10/21/05.

Petitioners will not object to a motion to suspend the UT-050778 proceeding pending approval etc. (I'm sure you know the right way to phrase it.)

--Douglas Rupp