

VIA FACSIMILE ONLY

May 18, 2000

Dennis J. Moss
Administrative Law Judge
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Re: In re Joint Application for Merger of Qwest Communications International Inc. and U S West, Inc., Docket No. UT-991358

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE

Dear Judge Moss:

Pursuant to WAC 480-09-440, Commission Staff requests a continuance of the date on which its responses are due to be filed with the Commission pursuant to the May 17, 2000, Notice Confirming Additional Process. That date is Friday, May 19, 2000 (by noon). Commission Staff has previously requested continuances of the Initial and Reply briefing deadlines in this case. The Commission has granted those requests. Commission Staff has conferred with counsel representing U S West and Qwest, and Public Counsel regarding its intention to file this request for a brief continuance until Monday, May 22, 2000 (by noon). Joint Applicants and Public Counsel fully support this request.

This request is based on the fact that Joint Applicants, Commission Staff, and Public Counsel continue to be engaged in settlement negotiations intended to resolve the remaining issues present in this merger proceeding. These Parties believe that the requested continuance would assist them in their efforts to arrive at a comprehensive settlement agreement.

The granting of this request for a brief continuance would be in the public interest. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

SALLY G. JOHNSTON
Assistant Attorney General

c: All Parties