

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition for)	DOCKET UT-063061
Arbitration of an Interconnection)	
Agreement between)	ORDER 08
)	
QWEST CORPORATION,)	ORDER VACATING PREFILING
)	DEADLINE AND SCHEDULING
and)	PREHEARING CONFERENCE
)	
ESCHELON TELECOM, INC.)	NOTICE OF PREHEARING
)	CONFERENCE
)	(Scheduled for January 12, 2007,
Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 252(b).)	9:30 a.m.)
)	
)	
)	
.....)	

MEMORANDUM

- 1 **NATURE OF PROCEEDING:** This proceeding involves Qwest Corporation’s (Qwest) request for arbitration of an interconnection agreement with Eschelon Telecom, Inc., (Eschelon) pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

- 2 **PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND:** The current procedural schedule in this case was established by Order 06, Prehearing Conference Order, entered on November 7, 2007. On January 4, 2007, the Administrative Law Judge held an informal conference¹ with the parties to discuss rescheduling the arbitration hearing in this matter.² During the informal conference, both parties expressed their willingness to

¹ The informal conference was held off-the-record.

² Given the Commission’s current workload and the limited Administrative Law Judge resources to address that workload , the Administrative Law Judge was directed to contact the parties regarding their willingness to reschedule the hearing in this proceeding to convene after the hearing in Docket UT-061625.

reschedule the hearing in this matter. However, Qwest expressed concern over complying with the current deadline, January 12, 2007, for the submission of prefiled reply testimony that would be stale by the time this matter proceeded to hearing. Eschelon concurred with that concern.

- 3 Given the parties' willingness to accommodate a change in the procedural schedule, the Administrative Law Judge concluded that a prehearing conference should be convened as expeditiously as possible to adopt a revised procedural schedule. The parties requested that the prehearing conference be convened on January 12, 2007.
- 4 On January 4, 2007, Eschelon and Qwest filed a joint letter confirming their representations during the informal conference. Specifically, the parties reiterated their willingness to reschedule the hearing in light of the upcoming retirement of Judge C. Robert Wallis and the Commission's resulting resource constraints. The parties requested continuance of the deadline for the submission of simultaneous prefiled rebuttal testimony, and all other remaining dates in the procedural schedule. The joint request is reasonable and should be granted. Accordingly, the current procedural schedule is vacated. The deadline for the submission of simultaneous prefiled rebuttal testimony and all other remaining procedural deadlines, including a hearing date, will be rescheduled at the prehearing conference.
- 5 **PREHEARING CONFERENCE:** A prehearing conference will be convened in this matter on **January 12, 2007, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in Room 108**, First Floor, Chandler Plaza Building, 1300 S. Evergreen park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington. If you are unable to attend the prehearing conference in person, you may attend via the Commission's teleconference bridge line, **360-664-3846**.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective January 5, 2007.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

PATRICIA CLARK
Administrative Law Judge