

March 26, 2003

RE: AT&T Communications of the Pacific Northwest v. Verizon Northwest Inc., Docket No. UT-020406

TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD:

On March 19, 2003, the Commission entered its *Sixth Supplemental Order; Order Determining to Review Settlement* in this docket. The Commission's *Sixth Supplemental Order* in paragraph 48, ordering paragraph 4, at page 14 orders Verizon to furnish the following notice:

- (4) Verizon must provide actual notice to its customers of the proposed increases and decreases, and of the date upon which a public hearing will be held in which customers may present their statements about the settlement proposal and their requests for any further process they believe is due before the Commission decides whether to approve the proposed rate increases.

On March 21, 2003, the administrative law judge sent a letter to the parties responding to some administrative or procedural questions that had arisen about the terms of the *Sixth Supplemental Order*. The letter invites the participating parties to the stipulation to file no later than March 27 a recommended customer notice and public hearing schedule and to indicate whether Public Counsel supports the proposal. Public Counsel has the opportunity to respond no later than March 31. The letter concludes, "The issues may then be considered at the prehearing conference now set for April 3, 2003."¹

On March 24, 2003, Commission Staff filed with the Commission a request that the Commission clarify that Verizon may provide notice to its customers of the proposed settlement before the scheduled April 3, 2003, prehearing conference.

¹ See, WAC 480-120-197(1).

Staff recommends that the Commission “clarify” ordering paragraph 4 of the *Sixth Supplemental Order*, and that Verizon should only be required to follow the customer notice procedures provided in WAC 480-120-194, which applies to notice of filings made outside the context of a pending adjudication.

The Commission thanks Commission Staff for its concern about customer notice. The Commission has, however, reviewed paragraph 48 of its *Sixth Supplemental Order* in this docket, and the instructions to Verizon seem to be clear. As indicated above, the question may be taken up as a procedural matter at the April 3 prehearing conference.

Sincerely,

MARJORIE R. SCHAER
Administrative Law Judge