

April 2, 2003

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

TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD:

Please review the following Commission rules in preparation for the April 3, 2003, prehearing conference in this docket.

WAC 480-120-197 Adjudicative proceedings where public testimony will be taken. (1) For adjudicated proceedings, when scheduling a hearing to take testimony from the public, the timing, location, and amount of notice to the public or to customers will be addressed in the prehearing conference order.

(2) The notice must include all information contained in WAC 480-120-194(4), except the public involvement information in WAC 480-120-194 (4)(j). A company must include either of the following public involvement language:

(a) Commission-suggested language that is available from the commission's designated public affairs officer; or

(b) Company-developed language that must include the commission's mailing address, toll-free number, docket number, and a brief explanation:

(i) How to participate in the commission's process by mailing or faxing a letter, or submitting an e-mail;

(ii) How to contact the commission for process questions; and

(iii) The date, time and location of the public hearing.

(3) Methods of notice permitted include a bill insert, bill message, printing on the billing envelope, a separate mailing to all affected customers or, if the company has the capability and the customer has authorized, by e-mail.

(4) In addition to each affected customer, a company must notify at least one newspaper of general circulation, and at least one radio station and at least one television station in the area or each of the areas affected.

WAC 480-120-199 Other customer notice. The commission may require notice to customers of tariff changes other than those described in these rules when the commission determines that additional customer education is needed.

WAC 480-09-466 Settlement conference; settlements. The commission favors the voluntary settlement of disputes within its jurisdiction. It will approve settlements when doing so is lawful and when the result is appropriate and consistent with the public interest in light of all the information available to the commission.

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(2) Settlements. A settlement is an agreement among two or more parties to a proceeding to resolve one or more issues.

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(c) Multiparty settlement. 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. Nonsettling parties may offer evidence and argument in opposition.

(d) Parties shall advise the commission when they have reached a partial or multiparty settlement and may suggest preferred procedural alternatives for review of the settlement. The commission will determine the appropriate procedure.

Sincerely,

MARJORIE R. SCHAER
Administrative Law Judge