

**U S WEST Proposed Draft Rules**New Section:

WAC 480.120.XXX Collocation.

(1) General. These rules address requirements for collocation by competitive local exchange providers (CLECs) required by the Telecommunication Act of 1996. Collocation allows for the placing of a equipment, owned by a CLEC, in an incumbent LEC's wire center that is necessary for accessing unbundled network elements (UNEs) and interconnection. Collocation includes the leasing of physical space, as well as the use of power; heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC); and cabling in an incumbent LEC's wire center. Collocation also allows collocators the ability to access an interconnection distribution frame (ICDF) for the purpose of connecting to unbundled network elements and ancillary services.

(2) Types of collocation. Incumbent LECs must make available to requesting competitive LECs virtual and physical collocation, including shared cage physical collocation and cageless physical collocation arrangements. A collocation method used by one incumbent LEC or mandated by the Commission is presumptively technically feasible for any other incumbent LEC. The types of collocation are defined as follows:

(a) Virtual Collocation. Virtual collocation requires the collocator to procure its own telecommunications equipment that the incumbent LEC installs and maintains. The collocator does not have physical access to its equipment in the incumbent LECs location, but will be granted access to the appropriate cross-connect device for making any cross connection it may require for access to the incumbent LECs' unbundled network elements (UNEs).

(b) Caged Physical Collocation. Caged physical collocation allows a collocator to lease caged floor space up to a maximum of 400 square feet, for placement of its equipment within an incumbent LECs wire center. Requests for space in excess of 400 square feet will be evaluated on an individual case basis. The collocator is responsible for the procurement, installation and on-going maintenance of its equipment as well as the cross connections required within the cage.

(c) Cageless Physical Collocation. Cageless physical collocation allows a collocator to lease space in a non-caged area within an incumbent LEC's wire center. Space will be made available in single frame bay increments. The minimum square footage is 9 square feet per bay. Space will be provided utilizing the incumbent LEC's standard equipment bay configurations in which the collocator can place and maintain its own equipment. The collocator is responsible for the procurement, installation and on-going maintenance of its equipment as well as the cross connections required within the collocator's leased collocation space.

- (d) Shared Physical Collocation. Shared physical collocation allows two or more collocators to share a single collocation enclosure. The incumbent LEC will prorate the charges for site conditioning and preparation to the collocators sharing the space. The incumbent LEC shall not place unreasonable restrictions on the collocators use of a shared collocation enclosure.
- (e) Interconnection Distribution Frame Collocation (ICDF). ICDF collocation allows a collocator to combine unbundled network elements and ancillary services without collocating equipment in the incumbent LEC's wire center. The interconnection distribution frame connects tie cables to various points within the wire center (*e.g.*, main distribution frame, COSMIC frame or digital cross connect panels, etc.) providing collocators with access to UNEs and ancillary services.
- (3) Equipment to be collocated. Incumbent LECs must permit competitive LECs to collocate all equipment used for interconnection and/or access to UNEs, even if it includes a "switching" or enhanced services function, and incumbent LECs cannot require that the switching or enhanced services functionality of equipment be disengaged.
- (4) Safety requirements. Incumbent LECs may adopt reasonable security measures to protect their central office equipment. Incumbent LECs may not require competitive LEC equipment to meet more stringent safety requirements than those the incumbent LEC imposes on its own equipment
- (5) Space determination procedures:
- (a) General. Space shall be made available on a first-come, first-served basis. Incumbent LECs are not required to lease or construct additional space to provide for additional space if existing space is exhausted. When space for collocation is exhausted at a particular LEC location, incumbent LECs must permit collocation in adjacent controlled environmental vaults or similar structures to the extent technically feasible. Collocators requesting physical collocation must be accommodated in favor of reserving virtual space for collocation.
- (b) Forecasting space. Incumbent LECs shall take into account collocation demand when forecasting growth of facilities. Incumbent LECs may retain space for their own future use, but not on more favorable terms than those of other providers also wishing to reserve space for future growth. Space reserved for future growth shall be relinquished to a virtual collocation request, before denying such a request on the basis that insufficient space exists. Subject to space constraints and the approval of the Commission, incumbent LECs may impose reasonable restrictions on the warehousing of unused space by other collocating providers.
- (c) Space evaluation. Following a request for collocation of any type or size, Incumbent LECs must complete a feasibility study within fifteen (15) business days of the request. The feasibility study will state whether the requested form of collocation is available. If it is determined that space is available, the incumbent LEC must complete planning and quote preparation within twenty-five (25) business days. If it is determined

that the requested form of collocation is unavailable, but another form of collocation is available, the collocator will be notified and allowed ten (10) business days to decide if alternate form of collocation is acceptable. Upon acceptance of a collocation alternative, the application will proceed in accordance with the intervals established in the collocator's interconnection agreement. Any quote preparation fee submitted for an original request will be applied automatically to any subsequent alternative requests accepted.

(d) Denial of space. Upon denial of the original collocation application, an out-of-space documentation package will be provided to the Commission. Information contained in the documentation will include; (1) the Central Office Common Language Identifier, (2) the collocator, the desired form of collocation, and the amount of space sought, (3) an inventory of active, inactive and underutilized equipment, (4) central office floor plans identifying functional areas, (5) a narrative of central office floor space use, (6) space occupied by other collocators, (7) space occupied by third parties, (8) the number of central office employees and job titles, (9) a description of central office renovation/expansion plans, and (10) a description of conversion of administrative, maintenance, equipment and storage space plans. The collocator that has been denied space may challenge the incumbent LECs finding through a complaint filed with the Commission. Incumbent LECs must permit a collocator that has been denied space the opportunity to tour the relevant LEC central office. Incumbent LECs must provide a list of all offices in which space is not available.

(e) Reclamation of space. Incumbent LECs have an obligation to reclaim central office equipment and space pursuant to requests for physical collocation. Consolidation of equipment to reclaim space is required only on equipment that is experiencing declining utilization and not equipment that has spare capacity for growth. Incumbent LECs are required to bear the costs of performing inventories of central office space equipment status and conducting space assessments. Incumbent LECs must also bear the costs of removing inactive equipment. Costs associated with equipment consolidation and circuit grooming will be considered on a case-by-case basis.