



Christine O. Gregoire

# ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

Utilities and Transportation Division

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August 16, 2004

Carole J. Washburn, Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW  
P. O. Box 47250  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Re: *WUTC v. Advanced Telecom Group, Inc., et al.*  
Docket No. UT-033011  
Hearing Dates

Dear Ms. Washburn:

The purpose of this letter is to express Staff's views on possible alternate dates for the hearing in this docket. The hearing is currently scheduled for November 1 through 5, 2004. The possible alternate dates are November 8, 9, 10 (half day), 22 and 23; or the entire week of January 10, 2005, with a half day on January 12, 2005.

Staff believes that the public interest is better served by holding the hearing in November rather than January. The parties have been on notice of the issues in this case for over a year now. The parties have already had the opportunity to engage in significant discovery. Drawing this case out until January will not serve to develop the record any further and only delays a final resolution until sometime in early to middle 2005. Also, the case has been significantly simplified by the large number of settlements. It is unclear, therefore, whether a full five day hearing will be required since that timeline was set anticipating a much more complicated case. Furthermore, maintaining a hearing date in November rather than January will serve as an incentive to encourage the timely settlement of other issues.

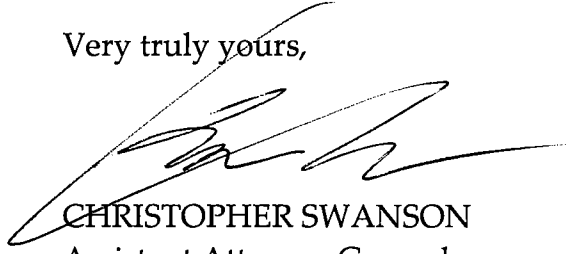
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For all of the above reasons, Staff opposes January hearing dates. If, however, the January dates are adopted, Staff requests a discovery cutoff date of November 15, 2004. This would prevent any party from engaging in unnecessarily protracted discovery and prevent holiday scheduling conflicts..

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Swanson', is written over the typed name and title.

CHRISTOPHER SWANSON  
Assistant Attorney General

CS:kl  
Enclosures  
cc: Parties