

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY OF THE
NORTHWEST d/b/a EMBARQ

For Minimal Regulation of
Bundled Telecommunications Services

DOCKET NO. UT-

PETITION OF UNITED
TELEPHONE COMPANY OF
THE NORTHWEST d/b/a
EMBARQ FOR MINIMAL
REGULATION OF BUNDLED
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
SERVICES

PETITION OF EMBARQ

1. This petition is brought by United Telephone Company of the Northwest d/b/a Embarq (“Embarq”). Embarq is represented in this matter by:

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2. Embarq requests the Commission to subject Embarq’s current and future packaged and bundled intrastate telecommunications services to minimal regulation pursuant to Chapter 26, Laws 2007, Section 2(1) (“the law”).

3. Embarq is a telecommunications company registered with the Commission but is not classified as a competitive telecommunications company. Embarq is thus a “noncompetitive telecommunications company” under the law.

APPLICATION OF THE LAW

4. The law applies to non-competitively classified telecommunications companies and provides that (a) the non-competitively classified service components of packages and bundles subject to minimal regulation shall remain available on a stand-alone basis under the company's tariff, (b) the price of such packages and bundles must not be less than the cost of the tariffed components plus the cost of any competitively classified components, and (c) the availability and prices of the stand-alone non-competitively classified components be displayed in the company's tariff and on its web site.

5. The law also states that "minimal regulation" has the same meaning as under RCW 80.36.330. The meaning of minimal regulation is described in RCW 80.36.330(2), which requires companies at a minimum to (a) keep their accounts according to Commission rules, (b) file financial reports as required by the Commission, and (c) cooperate with Commission investigations of customer complaints. This subsection previously provided that minimal regulation included the use of price lists rather than tariffs, but 2006 legislation required the withdrawal of price lists and precludes the filing of new price lists, with the result that services subject to minimal regulation are detariffed.¹

6. For purposes of RCW 19.86.170, actions or transactions associated with Embarq's bundles and packages that are not governed by RCW and WAC provisions administered by the Commission shall not be deemed otherwise permitted, prohibited, or regulated by the commission.

¹ RCW 80.36.333. The Commission has revised its rules accordingly. General Order R-540 (March 30, 2007; revised April 20, 2007), Docket No. UT-060676.

EMBARQ'S PACKAGES AND BUNDLES

7. Embarq requests minimal regulation of the following categories of packages and bundles:

Bundle	Description	Examples
Tariffed service(s) ²	Two or more tariffed services.	Custom calling features; or access line plus custom calling features
Tariffed service(s) + competitive service(s) ³	Two or more services, with a minimum of one tariffed service and one competitive service.	Access line plus long distance service
Tariffed + competitive + non-regulated service(s) ⁴	Three or more services, with a minimum of one tariffed service, one competitive service and one non-regulated service.	Access line, long distance and inside wire maintenance and/or Internet service
Tariffed + non-regulated service	Two or more services, with a minimum of one tariffed service and one non-regulated service.	Access line and inside wire maintenance and wireless service and/or video service

Examples of Embarq's bundles and packages that are currently offered in Washington include, but are not limited to; Call Manager (calling features), Home II Solution (access line plus calling features) and Safe and Sound II Solution (access line plus calling features plus Lineguard and CPE Warranty Plus).

² "Tariffed service" means an intrastate telecommunications service subject to the Commission's jurisdiction which has not been classified as competitive under RCW 80.36.330.

³ "Competitive service" means a service provided by Embarq that the Commission has classified as competitive under RCW 80.36.330 and/or a service provided by a company classified as competitive under RCW 80.36.320.

⁴ "Non-regulated services" includes services provided by Embarq that are not within the Commission's jurisdiction and services provided by other companies (Embarq affiliates and non affiliates) that are not subject to Commission regulation.

REQUEST FOR MINIMAL REGULATION

8. Embarq requests that its bundles and packages of telecommunications services be subject to minimal regulation as described in the law. The law recognizes the distinction between packages and bundles on the one hand and the noncompetitive, regulated service components of such packages and bundles when offered on a stand-alone basis on the other. The package or bundle is a service offering in its own right and will be provided pursuant to non-tariffed rates, terms and conditions, with consumers having the option to instead acquire the noncompetitive, regulated service components of such bundles and packages on a stand-alone basis pursuant to tariff and full regulation under the Commission's rules.

9. The pricing of packages and bundles shall be governed exclusively by RCW 80.36.3XX(1), Chapter 26, laws 2007, Section 2(1). Accordingly, RCW and WAC provisions that are incompatible with the concepts of packages and bundles as service offerings and of minimal regulation will not apply to Embarq's bundles and packages that include telecommunications services that, on a stand-alone basis, are tariffed and fully regulated. Embarq requests that the Commission specify that the following do not apply to Embarq's packages and bundles under minimal regulation:

- a. RCW 80.36.100, RCW 80.36.110,
- b. WAC 480-80,
- c. WAC 480-120-103(1)(a),
- d. RCW 80.36.150,
- e. and WAC 480-120-161(4)(b)-(e), (5)(a)-(b), (6) and (7)

10. Embarq requests that the Commission's order granting this petition be effective upon issuance. Embarq will treat any new packages and bundles introduced thereafter as being subject to minimal regulation, and it will withdraw current packages and bundles from its tariffs, at which time they will become subject to minimal regulation.

CONCLUSION

11. Embarq requests that the Commission issue an order subjecting the Company's current and future bundles and packages to minimal regulation as described in this petition.

Respectfully submitted this 25th day of July, 2007.

By: _____

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