

1 test of no harm to customers, because it will lead to higher rates for customers,”¹
2 on the basis that the Commission has applied a much broader standard in
3 reviewing similar transactions.² Qwest believes that its proposal falls well within
4 the range of “no harm” when evaluated in terms of the correct standard and that
5 Staff’s recommendation does not meet such a test.

6 Finally, most of the opposing party witnesses provide testimony that Qwest’s gain
7 disposition proposal contained in Ms. Jensen’s direct testimony is insufficient to
8 satisfy ratepayers’ interest in the directory publishing asset.³ In response to this
9 testimony, in part, and also in order to provide Washington with a gain disposition
10 proposal that is consistent with the stipulated settlements in the Utah and Arizona
11 Dex sale proceedings, my testimony revises the gain disposition proposal
12 contained in Ms. Jensen’s direct testimony. In order to provide a frame of
13 reference for the revised proposal, my testimony will include an overview of the
14 stipulated settlements reached by the parties to the Utah and Arizona Dex sale
15 approval proceedings. These settlements have occurred since Qwest filed its
16 direct testimony in this proceeding, ~~and represent important benchmarks by the~~
17 ~~only other states requiring Commission approval of the Dex sale. Additionally, I~~
18 ~~believe that the existence of these settlements certainly speaks to the sufficiency~~
19 ~~of Qwest’s proposal in this docket.~~

¹ Direct Testimony of Glenn Blackmon, Ph.D. dated March 18, 2003 (“Blackmon”) at page 3.

² *In the Matter of the Application of Avista Corporation for Authority to Sell its Interest in the Coal-Fired Centralia Power Plant, etc.* Docket Nos. UE-991255, UE-991262 and UE-991409, Second Supplemental Order; Order Approving Sale with Conditions, March 6, 2000, paragraph 29.

³ Blackmon at page 4; Direct Testimony of Lee L. Selwyn dated March 18, 2003 (“Selwyn”) at page 45; Direct Testimony of Michael L. Brosch dated March 18, 2003 (“Brosch”) at pages 70 to 71; Response Testimony of Charles W. King dated March 18, 2003 (“King”) at page 23.