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BEFORE THE
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of

NO. UT-991930

MOUNT ST. HELENS TOURS, INC. for
Designation of a Telecommunications Common
Carrier to Serve an Unserved Community, or
Portion Thereof.

**TESTIMONY OF KENNETH F. FAIRCLOTH
ON BEHALF OF GTE NORTHWEST INCORPORATED**

May 30, 2000

1 Q. Please state your name, position, and business address.

2 A. My name is Kenneth F. Faircloth. I am a Manager - Access Design and Construction for
3 GTE Northwest Incorporated (GTE). My business address is 4916 W Clearwater Ave, Kennewick WA
4 99336.

5 Q. Please describe your educational and professional background.

6 A. I have an associate degree in telecommunications from Clover Park Community College
7 in Tacoma, WA, and I have worked for GTE for twenty-five years. For the last ten years I have worked
8 in outside plant engineering and construction, mainly with regard to GTE's more rural exchanges in
9 Eastern Washington and Idaho.

10 Q. Please describe your current responsibilities.

11 A. I am responsible for engineering and constructing GTE's network infrastructure in
12 Eastern Washington and Idaho.

13 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

14 A. The purpose of my testimony is to explain that GTE is not well positioned to serve an
15 unserved community that includes Mt. St. Helens Tours, Inc., the petitioner in Docket No. UT-991930.

16 Q. Have you reviewed the petition from Mt. St. Helens Tours, Inc. in this docket?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What is your understanding of the geographic location of the petitioner Mt. St. Helens
19 Tours, Inc.?

20 A. Mt. St. Helens Tours, Inc. is located at the 24-mile marker along State Route 504 (Spirit
21 Lake Memorial Highway).

22 Q. What is the closest GTE serving area to the location of Mt. St. Helens Tours, Inc.?

23 A. The closest GTE exchange is its GTE's Woodland, which is located in southwestern
24 Washington along the Columbia River. The closest point of that exchange's boundary is approximately
25 63 miles from the 24-mile marker on State Route 504.

1 Q. Are you aware of any other local exchange service providers located closer to the Mt. St.
2 Helens Tours, Inc. location than GTE ?

3 A. Yes. I have reviewed industry exchange maps for Washington, and they show several
4 providers are located closer to the Mt. St. Helens Tours, Inc. location than GTE. These include U S
5 WEST, Kalama Telephone Company, and Toledo Telephone Company.

6 Q. Do you have any estimate of the construction costs which GTE would have to incur to
7 provide service to the Mt. St. Helens Tours, Inc. location?

8 A. Yes, I have been able to make rough estimates based on extending facilities from the
9 Woodland Exchange. It would cost at least \$2.0 million simply to place the fiber from GTE's
10 Woodland exchange to the Mt. St. Helens Tours, Inc. location. A digital loop carrier (DLC) to terminate
11 the fiber and provide for minimal distribution facilities would be an additional \$200,000. This brings
12 the capital investment to at least \$2.2 million.

13 Q. What other costs and operational situations would GTE face if it were to extend service
14 to the Mt. St. Helens Tours location?

15 A. Of course, in order to provide basic telephone service, GTE would incur costs to provide
16 switching, access to interexchange carriers, access to operator and directory assistance services, access
17 to emergency services, billing, collection, and so on. In addition, the company would face considerable
18 maintenance costs associated with providing service at such a remote location.

19 Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?

20 A. Yes.