

system. Sprint has taken affirmative steps to make numbering resources available in each of the rate centers, except Toppenish, in the interim.

5 Qwest did not object to the consolidation of Gardiner into the Port Angeles rate center.

6 After examination of the proposed rate center consolidations and giving consideration to all relevant matters, the Commission makes the following findings and conclusions:

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

7 (1) The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to RCW 80.01.040 and RCW 80.36.610, which gives the Commission authority to take actions necessary to implement the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.

8 (2) Conservation of telephone numbering resources will benefit telephone customers and telecommunications companies by reducing the likelihood that additional area codes will be required. The consolidation of rate centers contributes to more efficient use of numbering resources by allowing a single prefix or block of numbers to be used over a wider geographic area.

9 (3) The consolidation of the rate centers identified in Appendix A should be approved. It will contribute to number conservation and will not impose an unreasonable burden on either telephone customers or the affected local exchange companies.

10 (4) An implementation date of March 1, 2005, while much later than is customarily required to implement rate center consolidations, will accommodate the computer system changes being implemented by Sprint and is reasonable considering the actions undertaken by Sprint to make numbering resources available in most of the affected rate centers.

- 11 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 10, 2003.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) The rate center consolidations listed in Appendix A of this Order are approved. United Telephone Company of the Northwest and Qwest Corporation are directed to complete the consolidations by March 1, 2005.
- 13 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and United Telephone Company of the Northwest and Qwest Corporation to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 10th day of December, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

APPENDIX A

Rate Center Consolidations
To Be Implemented by March 1, 2005

Current Rate Centers	Consolidated Rate Centers
Toppenish Zillah	Toppenish
Mabton Bickleton	Mabton
Brinnon Quilcene	HoodCanal
Gardiner Port Angeles	Port Angeles
Dallesport Wishram	Dallesport