

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of ) DOCKET NO. UT-040520  
Verizon Northwest, Inc., for )  
Approval of Revised Depreciation )  
Rates ) NOTICE OF PREHEARING  
 ) CONFERENCE  
 ) **(Set for Friday, December 3, 2004**  
 ) **at 1:30 p.m.)**

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- 1 On April 5, 2004, Verizon Northwest, Inc., filed with the Commission a letter petitioning the Commission to approve the revised depreciation rates set forth in its depreciation study submitted to the Commission’s Staff on March 17, 2004.
- 2 The company requests revised depreciation rates to be effective January 1, 2004. The request is to increase the composite depreciation rate from 6.5% to 9.1%, resulting in an annual increase in total state depreciation expense of approximately \$64.6M and an annual increase in intrastate depreciation expense of \$458.4M. The company states revised rates are needed now to ensure the adequacy of the depreciation reserve and to allow the company to recover its investments in assets over their economically useful lives.
- 3 The Commission will hear this matter pursuant to Part IV of chapter 34.05 RCW pertaining to adjudicative proceedings, including but not limited to RCW 34.05.413, RCW 34.05.422, RCW 34.05.431, RCW 34.05.440, RCW 34.05.449, and RCW 34.05.452. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Title 80 RCW, having legal authority to regulate the rates, services, and practices of telecommunications companies pursuant to RCW 80.36.140. Statutes involved, in addition to those previously cited, include those within chapters 80.01 RCW, 80.04 RCW and 80.36 RCW relating to rates, including but not limited to RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04.020, RCW 80.36.080, and RCW 80.36.140.

Rules involved include those within chapters 480-07 WAC, and chapters 480-120 WAC.

4 The ultimate issues include whether the proposed depreciation rates accurately reflect the useful lives in service for the assets to which they pertain.

5 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That a prehearing conference in this matter will be held at 1:30 p.m. on December 3, 2004, in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Chandler Plaza Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.**

6 The purpose of the prehearing conference is to consider scheduling matters, consider formulating the issues in the proceeding and determine other matters to aid in its disposition, as specified in WAC 480-07-430.

Petitions to intervene must be made in writing at least five business days prior to the date of the prehearing conference, pursuant to WAC 480-07-355(a). In addition, notices of appearance must be filed with the Commission, as required by WAC 480-07-345(2), no later than the day prior to the conference. If any party or witness needs an interpreter or other assistance, please fill out the form attached to this notice and return it to the Commission. The time and place for the evidentiary hearings will be set at the prehearing conference or by later written notice.

7 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE that any party who fails to attend or participate in the prehearing conference set by this Notice, or any other stage of this proceeding, may be held in default in accordance with RCW 34.05.440. The parties are further advised that the sanction provisions of WAC 480-07-450 are specifically invoked.**

8 The names and mailing addresses of all parties and their known representatives are as follows:

Petitioner:	Verizon Northwest Inc. 1800 41 <sup>st</sup> Street Everett, WA 98201
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Representative: Judith Endejan  
Graham & Dunn PC  
Pier 70, Suite 300  
2801 Alaskan Way  
Seattle, WA 98121-1128

Commission Staff Donald D. Trotter  
Assistant Attorney General  
1400 S. Evergren Park Drive SW  
PO Box 40128  
Olympia, WA 98504-0128  
(360) 664-1189

Public Counsel: Simon J. ffitc  
Public Counsel Section  
Office of Attorney General  
900 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98164-1012  
(206) 464-7744

9 An Administrative Law Judge of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission will be appointed to preside during this proceeding.

10 The Public Counsel section of the Office of the Attorney General has been designated by the Attorney General to represent the public. The address of the Commission, shown below, may be used for inquiries of Public Counsel, or Public Counsel may be contacted directly by writing or calling the address or telephone number listed below.

- 11 Notice of any other procedural phase will be given in writing or on the record, as the Commission may deem appropriate during the course of this proceeding.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 23rd day of August 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN  
Executive Secretary

Inquiries may be address to:

Executive Secretary  
Washington Utilities and  
Transportation Commission  
Chandler Plaza Building  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160

- or - Public Counsel Section  
Office of the Attorney General  
900 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98164-1012  
(206) 464-7744

**NOTICE**

PLEASE NOTE: The hearing facilities are accessible to interested people with disabilities; that smoking is prohibited; and if limited English-speaking or hearing-impaired parties or witnesses are involved in a hearing and need an interpreter, a qualified interpreter will be appointed at no cost to the party or witness.

The information needed to provide an appropriate interpreter or other assistance should be stated below and returned to Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Attention: Carole J. Washburn, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, P. O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250. (PLEASE SUPPLY ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION)

Docket No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Case Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hearing Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Hearing Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Language: \_\_\_\_\_

Hearing Impaired (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ (No) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need a certified sign language interpreter:

Visual \_\_\_\_\_ Tactile \_\_\_\_\_

Other type of assistance needed: \_\_\_\_\_

English-speaking person who can be contacted if there are questions:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_