

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

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET NO. UT-990059
)	
VERIZON NORTHWEST INC.,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
For Less Than Required Notice in)	ORDER GRANTING LESS
Connection with Contract)	THAN REQUIRED NOTICE
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On May 7, 2004, Verizon Northwest Inc., (Verizon) filed with the Commission a contract addendum to an existing customer specific agreement that provides Enhanced Emergency Number Services (E911) to Benton County. Benton County is currently receiving this service under Contract No. 1129, effective February 16, 1999, and expiring May 31, 2004.

- 2 WAC 480-80-142 requires thirty days' notice prior to the effective date of the contract. Verizon requests an earlier effective date of June 1, 2004, as authorized in WAC 480-80-142. The reason for requesting less than required notice is that the contract addendum was not finalized between Verizon and Benton County with sufficient time to file before the contract's May 31, 2004, expiration date.

- 3 The contract addendum incorporates new pricing for elements defined as individual case basis (ICB) rates in Verizon's E911 Tariff. The purpose of the addendum is to extend the contract terms on a month-to-month basis from June 1, 2004, to May 31, 2005.

- 4 Commission Staff has reservations regarding pricing and costs provided by Verizon. Due to the critical nature of the service to the public and the expected brevity of the contract duration, the Commission should allow the Benton County contract addendum to go into effect. Commission Staff anticipates

Verizon will file a revised E911 Tariff to reflect changes and upgrades required for providing emergency services within the next month.

- 5 The less than required notice is consistent with the public interest as the contract services are critical public safety services. It is appropriate that the Commission grant Verizon's request with an effective date of June 1, 2004.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of property of public service companies, including telecommunications companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 80.04 RCW, Chapter 80.08, Chapter 80.12 and Chapter 80.36 RCW.*
- 7 (2) Verizon is a telecommunications company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 8 (3) Verizon is subject to the provisions of WAC 480-80-142 requiring telecommunications companies to file contracts for any rate or charge with thirty days' notice, however, for good cause shown the Commission may allow changes without requiring thirty days' notice.
- 9 (4) Staff has reviewed the request in Docket UT-990059 and recommended the less than required notice request of Verizon be granted.
- 10 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 26, 2004.

- 11 (6) After examination of the proposed contract filed by Verizon on May 7, 2004, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds the proposed contract should become effective June 1, 2004.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) The request sought by Verizon Northwest Inc., for less than required notice is granted.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 26th day of May, 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary