

March 3, 2004

Lois Diehl
401 South "G" Street, #303
Tacoma, WA 98405-4740

RE: In re Application of U S WEST, Inc. and Qwest Communications
International, Inc., Docket No. UT-991358

Dear Ms. Diehl:

The Commission received your letter of inquiry in the above matter on March 1, 2004, in regards to whether attendance at the prehearing conference schedule for March 10, 2004, is mandatory. The Commission notifies all parties and interested persons in a proceeding of the time and place set for a prehearing conference so persons may become "parties" if they wish to do so.

Paragraph 8 merely states the legal requirements for persons and organizations that do want to participate by attending the hearings, offering evidence, cross examining others' evidence, and submitting briefs. If you have no desire to participate as a litigant in the hearing process, you have no need to worry about anything in paragraph 8.

Thanks for your letter—we're sorry if the notice caused you unnecessary concern.

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary