

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Complainant,

v.

VERIZON NORTHWEST INC.,

Respondent.

DOCKET NO. UT-040788

ANSWER OF COMMISSION
STAFF TO PUBLIC COUNSEL'S
MOTION TO COMPEL

1 This Answer is filed on behalf of Commission Staff. Staff has reviewed
Public Counsel's September 30, 2004 Motion to Compel Responses to Data
Requests.

2 The Public Counsel data requests at issue seek important and relevant
information applicable to directory imputation issues presented in this docket. The
information is necessary to test Verizon NW's case on directory imputation, and to
develop a defensible estimate of the appropriate level of imputation. The
information should be provided.

3 It appears there have been efforts between the parties to reach
accommodation. On the other hand, it is not apparent why some of the most basic
information requested has not been provided. For example, Public Counsel Data
Request No. 157 specifically asked for “copies of the journal entries” relating to
accounting changes, yet no journal entries were provided.

4 Public Counsel Data Request No. 156 asked for a “carve out” of Washington
directory operations from Verizon Directories Corp. Verizon apparently believes it
does not have to provide this information because it does not maintain that
information in the ordinary course of its business. However, WAC 480-07-
400(1)(c)(iii) clearly permits a data request to ask for “analysis.” Public Counsel
Data Request No. 156 is simply asking for a specific type of analysis.

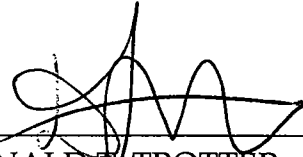
5 Verizon NW has not objected on the basis that it cannot perform the analysis,
or an undue burden is created. Indeed, a relative of Verizon NW did just such an
analysis regarding Hawaii operations. (Motion at 6-7). Instead, the Company has
objected on the basis that the analysis requested is not in a document maintained by
the Company. That is not a sufficient basis for refusing to provide the analysis
requested.

6 Verizon NW bears the burden of proof in this proceeding. RCW 80.04.130(2).
If Verizon NW refuses to provide the requested information, the Commission

should issue an order finding that the Company has failed to sustain its burden of proof on the issue of directory imputation.

DATED this 8^h day of October, 2004.

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Attorney General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Trotter', is written over a horizontal line.

DONALD T. TROTTER
Senior Counsel
Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission