

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

In the Matter of the Review of:	)	DOCKET NO. UT-023003
Unbundled Loop and Switching)	
Rates; the Deaveraged Zone	)	ELEVENTH SUPPLEMENTAL
Rate Structure; and Unbundled	)	ORDER: PREHEARING
Network Elements, Transport,	)	CONFERENCE ORDER; GRANTING
and Termination	)	MOTION TO ALLOW LATE FILING;
	)	REVISING PROCEDURAL
	)	SCHEDULE; REQUESTING
	)	RESPONSES TO PROPOSAL TO
	)	BIFURCATE DOCKET
.....	)	(Due July 31, 2003)

1 **Prehearing Conference.** The Commission convened a prehearing conference on July 10, 2003, at Olympia, Washington before Administrative Law Judge Theodora M. Mace pursuant to due and proper notice to all interested persons. The primary purpose of the conference was to address a request by several parties to the proceeding for a continuance of the nonrecurring cost portion of the docket.

2 **Appearances.** The following parties appeared at the prehearing conference: Qwest Corporation (“Qwest”), by Lisa Anderl, attorney, Seattle, WA; Verizon Northwest Inc. (“Verizon”), by William Richardson, attorney, Washington, D.C.; Covad Communications Company (“Covad”), by Harry Pliskin, attorney, Denver, CO; AT&T of the Pacific Northwest, Inc. (“AT&T”), Pac-West, Inc. (“Pac-West”), and XO Washington, Inc. (“XO”), by Mary Steele, attorney, Seattle; MCI/WorldCom (“WorldCom”) by Michel Singer-Nelson, attorney, Denver; WeBTEC, by Arthur Butler, attorney, Seattle; Eschelon Telecom, Inc. (“Eschelon”), by Dennis Ahlers, Minneapolis, MN; and Commission Staff, by Mary Tennyson, Senior Assistant Attorney General.

- 3 **Verizon Motion to File Exhibits.** On July 2, 2003, Verizon filed revised testimony and various exhibits on compact disc that contained additional back up documentation supporting its cost study filed on June 26, 2003. In its motion filed simultaneously, Verizon explained that its late filing was due to the detection of an error in its compact discs and that good cause exists for granting permission to file late. By notice dated July 3, 2003, the Commission provided all parties an opportunity to respond to Verizon's motion by July 8, 2003. No party filed a response. Verizon's motion was granted during the prehearing conference.
- 4 **Procedural Schedule.** The Fourth and Fifth Supplemental Orders in this proceeding established a bifurcated procedural schedule to address recurring and nonrecurring costs separately. Recurring costs were to be addressed in hearings scheduled to begin on December 2, 2003, whereas hearings concerning nonrecurring costs were scheduled to begin on January 5, 2004.
- 5 On June 25, 2003, several parties proposed a continuance of the procedural schedule for the nonrecurring costs portion of the proceeding. At the prehearing conference, the parties proposed two alternative schedules for continuing the nonrecurring cost portion of this proceeding. The first proposal would retain the current procedural schedule for recurring costs, cancel the January hearings, and establish a new procedural schedule for nonrecurring costs, with hearings scheduled to begin in May 2004. The second proposal would cancel the December hearings, shift the hearings on recurring costs to the January days set aside for nonrecurring hearings, and reschedule the nonrecurring costs hearings to begin on in May 2004.
- 6 Commission Staff prefers the first proposal, i.e., retaining the December hearing dates for recurring costs, but is available for hearings in January. All other parties appear indifferent between the two proposals. Based upon the discussion of the parties, and current scheduling needs, the parties' request to continue the procedural schedule for the nonrecurring costs portion of the proceeding is

granted. Further, the December hearing dates in this proceeding are canceled, and hearings addressing the recurring costs portion of the proceeding will be held in January 2004. A procedural schedule for the recurring and nonrecurring costs portions of the proceeding will be established by separate notice.

- 7 **New Docket for Nonrecurring Costs.** During the prehearing conference, Qwest requested that the nonrecurring cost portion of this proceeding be addressed in a separate proceeding under a new docket number. The Commission seeks comments from the parties concerning Qwest's proposal. Responses to Qwest's proposal must be filed with the Commission no later than **Thursday, July 31, 2003.**

Dated at Olympia, Washington and effective this 17th day of July, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

THEODORA M. MACE
Administrative Law Judge

NOTICE TO PARTIES: Any objection to the provisions of this Order must be filed within ten (10) days after the date of mailing of this document, pursuant to WAC 480-09-460(2). Absent such objections, this prehearing conference order will control further proceedings in this matter, subject to Commission review.