

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of Review of
Unbundled Loop and Switching Rates and
Review of the Deaveraged Zone Rate
Structure.

DOCKET NO. UT-023003

RESPONSE OF COMMISSION
STAFF ON PROPOSAL TO
BIFURCATE DOCKET

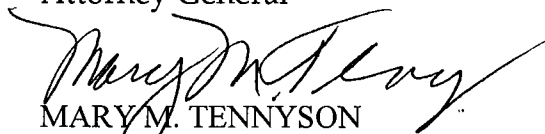
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STATE OF WASH.
UTILITIES AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

1 **New Docket for Nonrecurring Costs.** During the prehearing conference held in this matter on July 10, 2003, Qwest requested that the nonrecurring cost portion of this proceeding be addressed in a separate proceeding under a new docket number. In the Eleventh Supplemental Order, the Commission sought comments from the parties concerning Qwest's proposal, to be filed with the Commission no later than Thursday, July 31, 2003.

2 Commission Staff supports Qwest's request to assign the nonrecurring cost portion of this proceeding to a separate proceeding under a new docket number. A separate docket will make it easier to identify which matter is being referred to in filings, thus saving time for those who may be working on only one part of the case. The two portions of the case are separate and distinct, and Staff sees no reason that they cannot be separated into two dockets.

Dated: July 30, 2003.

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
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