

September 9, 2003

Carole Washburn, Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Re: *AT&T Communications of the Pacific Northwest, Inc. v. Verizon Northwest, Inc.*
Docket No. UT-020406

Dear Ms. Washburn:

The Commission Staff responds to the comments made by Verizon in its September 8, 2003, letter. In that letter, Verizon states that the Commission should not permit Staff to reply to Verizon's response to Staff's Petition for Reconsideration. In its response to Staff's petition, Verizon concludes that the Commission does not have jurisdiction to consider Staff's petition. The Commission should permit Staff to respond to this statement (even though it is lodged in a footnote and without legal analysis) because the Staff's response will assist the Commission in reaching its decision on whether it should consider Staff's petition. Staff will not further argue the merits of its petition. Staff will submit its response to Verizon's conclusion regarding the Commission's jurisdiction by September 10, 2003.

Very truly yours,

Shannon E. Smith
Assistant Attorney General

SES:kl
cc: Parties