BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Six-Month Review of Qwest Corporation's Performance Assurance Plan

WORLDCOM COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO ORDER NO. 4

4 5

WorldCom, Inc., on behalf of its regulated subsidiaries in Washington (n/k/a MCI), files the following initial comments in response to the Commission's November 12, 2003 Order No. 4. There, the Commission determined it to be appropriate in this six-month review period to evaluate the following issues: (1) performance standards for Line Sharing and Line Splitting, (2) performance standards and payment opportunities for EELs, and (3) the propriety of including PID PO-2 in the QPAP.

DISCUSSION

1. Performance Standards For Line Sharing And Line Splitting

As noted in its earlier comments, MCI orders Line Splitting from Qwest in the state of Washington. The Triennial Review Order ("TRO") reaffirms Qwest's obligation to provide competitive local exchange carriers ("CLECs") with Line Splitting. The TRO provides that the incumbent local exchange carriers ("ILECs") must provide CLECs with the ability to engage in line splitting regardless of whether the CLEC provides own switching or uses UNE-P. The ILECs "must

make all necessary network modifications, including providing nondiscriminatory access to [OSS] necessary for pre-ordering, provisioning, maintenance and

3 repair, and billing."¹

As noted in this Commission's 4th Order, it is appropriate to address performance measures for Line Splitting now, rather than wait for Long Term PID Administration ("LTPA") review. The Colorado and Minnesota Performance Assurance Plans ("PAPs") already incorporate Line Splitting in performance reporting and payments. As a result of the first Colorado 6-month PAP review proceeding, the Colorado Commission ordered Qwest to provide separate performance reporting for Line Splitting under: OP-3 Installation Commitments Met, OP-4 Installation Interval, OP-5 New Service Quality, OP-6 Delayed Days, MR-3 Out of Service Cleared within 24 Hours, MR-6 Mean Time to Restore, MR-7 Repair Repeat Report Rate, and MR-8 Trouble Rate. MCI asks the Washington Commission to order Qwest to incorporate this same performance reporting for Line Splitting in the Washington PAP.

MCI has since uncovered several problems with Qwest's reporting of Line Splitting results in Colorado. First, it did not appear that Qwest was reporting Line Splitting as a separate category in its CLEC specific performance results for MCI. After MCI brought this to Qwest's attention, in its November 4, 2003 Colorado PAP review comments, Qwest responded, "Qwest had identified a

_

¹ Report and Order and Order on Remand and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, In the Matter of Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers, Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications act of 1996, and Deployment of Wireline Services Offering Advanced Telecommunications Capability, FCC Order No. 03-36, CC Docket Nos. 01-338, 96-98, 98-14 (hereafter Triennial Review Order or TRO) at paragraphs 251-252; 51 C.F.R. section 319(a)(1)(ii).

- problem which was being corrected and that line splitting would be reported as a separate product category in the CLEC specific performance results reports for
- 3 September 2003, and would also reflect August 2003 historical results, if any." ²
- Nonetheless, even after reviewing the corrected September 2003 reporting, MCI doubted the accuracy of the Line Splitting reporting. Line Splitting results were not reported for the provisioning measures under "MCI Metro" as the underlying carrier, which is where MCI expected the orders to be tracked.

 Additionally, Line Sharing reporting that appeared under "MCI Metro" should
- MCI pointed out these problems to Qwest, to which Qwest responded on November 20, 2003, stating:

have been reported with "Rhythms" as the underlying carrier.

Line splitting and line sharing were reported as separate product categories in September 2003, reflecting August results. In service line counts were separated between line sharing and line splitting in the September results reported in October. Up until this point in time, line splitting lines would have been grouped with line sharing and reported as such. Qwest has subsequently discovered that in line splitting situations, where MCI Metro is the underlying carrier and Rhythms is the data provider, it had incorrectly identified the underlying carrier as Rhythms. This is being addressed and Qwest anticipates a correction with November results due in December.

Additionally, Qwest has discovered a small number of records identified in the September performance report as line sharing and incorrectly belonging to MCI Metro. This can happen when the order is written without the proper FIDs that indicate line splitting. In this event, the record was bucketed as line sharing instead of line

-

² See Qwest's November 4, 2003 Colorado Second 6-Month PAP Review Informal Reply Comments, attached as Exhibit A.

;	splitting.	These	records	will	be	corrected	with	the	December	results
(due in Jai	nuary. ³								

Given these problems with Qwest's Line Splitting reporting in Colorado and the importance of Line Splitting as a product offering, MCI would like the ability to monitor separately Qwest's ability to service and report on Line Splitting. MCI requests that this Commission order Qwest to include Line Splitting performance measurement results and PAP payment results separately from Line Sharing results. The Commission should order Qwest to add Line Splitting as a separate product category to all measures where Line Sharing is currently included.⁴ Also, any payment for missed measures should be made for Line Sharing and Line Splitting separately.⁵ This is the only way to assure CLECs and regulatory bodies of Qwest's commitment to satisfactory performance in these key areas.

Measurement OP-5A New Service Quality currently has a standard for Line Sharing of "Parity with retail RES & BUS POTS." However, the Line Splitting standard, which is currently diagnostic (no performance standard), should also be set to a standard of "Parity with retail RES & BUS POTS." In addition, OP-6 Delayed Days, which is currently diagnostic for Line Sharing and Line Splitting, should also implement the same standard of "Parity with retail RES & BUS POTS." These standards should be applied for reporting and PAP payment purposes.

1 2

³ November 20, 2003 Electronic Mail response from MCI's Account Manager at Qwest, attached as Exhibit B.

⁴ Includes PID measures PO-5, OP-3, OP-4, OP-5, OP-6, OP-15, MR-3, MR-4, MR-6, MR-7, MR-8.

⁵ Includes PAP measures PO-5, OP-3, OP-4, OP-5, OP-6, MR-3, MR-6, MR-7, MR-8.

2. Performance Standards And Payment Opportunities For EELs

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

The Washington PID Exhibit B includes EELs under the product reporting for the measures OP-3 Installation Commitments Met, OP-4 Installation Intervals, OP-5 New Service Quality, OP-6 Delayed Days, OP-15 Number of Due Date Changes Per Order, MR-5 All Troubles Cleared within 4 hours, MR-6 Mean Time to Restore, MR-7 Repair Repeat Report Rate, and MR-8 Trouble Rate. All measurements have a diagnostic standard except for OP-3 Installation Commitments Met, which lists a standard of 90%. In Qwest's Section 271 proceeding in Washington, the Commission ruled, "Qwest must provide payment opportunities in the QPAP for these measures as the standards are determined and not wait until a six-month review to do so". Thirtieth Supplemental Order, Docket Nos. UT-003022 and UT-003044, at ¶124. Despite this mandate, Qwest has not filed anything with the Commission to address payment opportunities for EELs standards. Moreover, Qwest has since agreed to payment opportunities for EELs in Colorado. The Washington Commission should order Qwest immediately to incorporate the same standards and payments opportunities into the Washington PAP that parties agreed to in Colorado.⁶

3. Propriety Of Including PID PO-2 In The QPAP

As this Commission noted in its 4th Order in this proceeding, including PO-2 in the QPAP was a contested issue during the Section 271 proceedings. At that time, this Commission ordered Qwest to include PID PO-2(b) in the QPAP, finding that the PID was developed, standards had been agreed upon, and the "measure is important to a CLEC's ability to compete with Qwest." *Thirtieth*

⁶ Includes measures PO-5, OP-3, OP-4, OP-5, OP-6, MR-5, MR-6, MR-7, and MR-8

Supplemental Order, Docket Nos. UT-003022 and UT-003044, at ¶129. The ability of orders to "flow through" the system is important for CLECs because manual handling can lead to errors that do not occur with "flow through." The Commission has already decided this issue. MCI asks the Commission to continue to enforce its earlier decision to require Qwest to include PO-2(b) in the Washington PAP both Tier 1 and Tier 2 payments, given that Qwest has not presented to this Commission any new argument or additional information as to why the Commission should now reverse its decision and only require a single tier for this measurement.

Dated this 8th day of December 2003.

MCI Michel L. Singer Nelson 707 17th Street, Suite 4200 Denver, CO 80202 303 390 6106 303 390 6333 (fax) Michel.singer nelson@mci.com