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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of
QWEST CORPORATION
Regarding the Sale and Transfer of Qwest Dex
to Dex Holdings, LLC, a non-affiliate

Docket No. UT-021120
JOINT PROPOSAL WITH REGARD TO
DISPOSITION OF BILL CREDIT
RESIDUARY

The following parties, Qwest Corporation, Commission Staff, Public Counsel, AARP, FEA/DOD, and WeBTEC (“Parties”) to this case hereby submit to the Commission their joint proposal with regard to the disposition of the residuary from the Bill Credit. The parties request that the Commission consider this recommendation at the Commission’s next regularly scheduled open meeting, March 24, 2004. The Parties recommend that the residuary balance of \$56,244 be provided to the Community Voicemail Program for use in Washington state.

In accordance with the Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) in this case, which provided for Qwest to provide a bill credit in the aggregate amount of \$67,000,000.00, Qwest applied a bill credit of \$31.00 per access line to those qualifying lines as described in the Agreement. That credit totaled \$66,943,756, leaving a residuary of \$56,244.¹ In accordance with the Agreement, the parties are required to present to the Commission their joint or separate recommendations for

¹ Docket UT-021120, *Dex Bill Credit Accounting and Reconciliation Report*, filed January 15, 2004.

1 the distribution of any Bill Credit residuary.

2
3 The parties propose that the entire \$56,244 be distributed as a grant to a single entity and
4 that the recipient be the Community Voice Mail (“CVM”) program. CVM is a not-for-profit
5 organization that provides voice mailboxes to people in crisis or transition who either do not have
6 a telephone or who need a secure voice mailbox. More information on CVM can be obtained at:

7 Community Voice Mail National Office

8 2901 Third Avenue, Suite 100

9 Seattle, WA 98121

10 Tel: 206.441.7872

11 Fax: 206.443.3755

12 <http://www.cvm.org>.

13
14 The CVM program is already familiar to the Commission and to the parties in this
15 proceeding. In 2000 the Commission, Qwest (then U S WEST Communications, Inc.), Public
16 Counsel, WeBTEC (then Telecommunications Ratepayers Association for Cost-based and
17 Equitable Rates), and AARP (then American Association of Retired Persons) recommended that
18 \$650,000 be allocated to the same program as part of the disposition of refunds from the appeal of
19 the 1995 U S WEST general rate case. (King County Superior Court, Case No. 96-2-09623-7
20 SEA) Using these funds as well as other resources, CVM has started and operated 11 distribution
21 centers or sites in Washington: Spokane, Pasco, Wenatchee, Vancouver, Olympia, Tacoma,
22 Seattle, Snohomish County, Oak Harbor, Skagit County, and Bellingham. Some sites serve
23 multiple counties through toll-free dial-in numbers. The Dex residuary funds could be used, *inter*
24 *alia*, to support the Olympia and Vancouver CVM sites, which are currently at risk due to a
25 shortfall in expected funding from the Washington Telephone Assistance Program.

26

1 Distribution of the residuary to CVM is consistent with the Agreement in that it distributes
2 the remainder of the Bill Credit to the benefit of telephone subscribers, including those who may
3 have at one time had an access line but who no longer do. Thus, those customers would not have
4 received the \$31.00 credit, but are indirectly benefited by this distribution.

5 Respectfully submitted this 11th day of March, 2004.

6
7 CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
8 ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

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INTERNATIONAL INC. and
QWEST CORPORATION

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