

November 3, 2003

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

Re: *In the Matter of the Review of Unbundled Loop and Switching Rates and Review of the
Deaveraged Zone Rate Structure, Docket No. UT-023003*

Dear Ms. Washburn:

The Commission Staff submits this letter in response to the Joint Motion to Remove Qwest Rate Issues filed on October 24, 2003. As stated in the motion, the Commission Staff does not object to removing Qwest rate issues from this docket, so long as the issue of geographic deaveraging remains in the docket.

Very truly yours,

SHANNON E. SMITH
Assistant Attorney General
(360) 664-1192

SES:tt
cc: All parties