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Verizon Southwest Inc. and
Verizon Northwest Inc.



March 12, 2004

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Ms. Carole Washburn
Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Dear Ms. Washburn:

Subject: Docket No. UT-043013

On February 26, 2004, Verizon Northwest Inc. initiated this consolidated arbitration to amend its interconnection agreements with CLECs and CMRS providers, in light of the FCC's changes to its network unbundling rules in its *Triennial Review Order*. Verizon's proposed amendment that is the basis of this arbitration was made available to the CLEC community on October 2, 2003, in accordance with the negotiation and arbitration procedures established in the *TRO* and section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act"). On March 2, 2004, however, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals issued a decision in which it vacated certain provisions of the *Triennial Review Order* and upheld others. The Court has stayed issuance of its mandate for a minimum of 60 days.


Although the D.C. Circuit's ruling may not affect the language of Verizon's amendment, relatively minor revisions to that amendment might be desirable in the wake of the Court's order. If Verizon determines that it will propose any modifications to the amendment, it will file the

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revised amendment by Friday, March 19, 2004. Therefore, Verizon proposes that the Commission allow the CLECs to respond to Verizon's Petition for Arbitration within 25 days after March 19 (rather than within the usual 25 days after filing of the Petition).

Respectfully submitted,

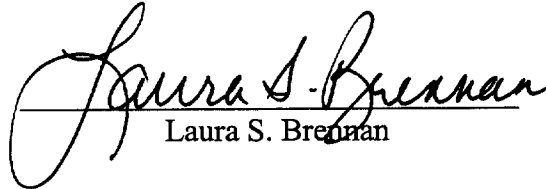
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cc: Attached Service List

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on the 12th day of March 2004, I caused copies of the foregoing Petition for Arbitration to be served upon the parties on the attached service list by first-class mail, postage prepaid.


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