

March 7, 2006

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 Joint Application of the Merger of Qwest Communications Corporation and U S West Communications, Inc.*
Docket No. UT-991358

Dear Ms. Washburn:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced docket are an original and 10 copies of Staff's Response in Support of Qwest's Petition for Mitigation of Payment under the Service Quality Performance Program (SQPP), and Certificate of Service.

Very truly yours,

SALLY G. JOHNSTON
Sr. Assistant Attorney General

SGJ:emd
Enclosures
cc: Parties