

April 11, 2001

The Honorable Lawrence J. Berg
Administrative Law Judge
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W.
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: Docket No. UT-003013 (Phase B)
Request of Commission Staff for Extension of Time to Respond to Bench Request No. 42

Dear Judge Berg:

Commission Staff respectfully requests an extension of time to respond to Bench Request No. 42, which asks the parties to comment on a bench proposal for identifying the cost of an end-office digital switching machine. This includes cost estimates relating to call set-up, per-minute of use, loading factors, and other cost-based factors. Staff believes that the companies are the entities best able to provide this information to the Commission.

Staff will be able to provide the Commission a much more informed response to the bench request after it has had time to review the companies' responses, in particular those of Verizon and Qwest. In addition, Staff has been obtaining and is in the process of reviewing decisions by the Texas and California Public Utility Commissions regarding the rate levels and rate structures for terminating traffic, in order to provide the Commission with a fully-developed response.

Qwest has been directed to respond to the bench request by April 13; Verizon has received an extension of time to respond until April 20. Staff, therefore, requests that it be granted an extension of time until May 4 (two weeks after Verizon has responded) to respond to Bench Request No. 42, and to reply to the responses of other parties to the bench request.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

Gregory J. Trautman
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Service List
Carole Washburn