

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET NO. UT-011439
)	
VERIZON NORTHWEST, INC.,)	FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL
)	ORDER
For Waiver of WAC 480-120-071(2)(a).)	PREHEARING CONFERENCE
)	ORDER
.....)	

1 **Proceeding:** Docket No. UT-011439 is a petition by Verizon Northwest Inc. (Verizon), seeking a waiver or an exemption from WAC 480-120-071 regarding extending service to two separate locations in Verizon’s Bridgeport exchange in Okanogan and Douglas Counties. In its Third Supplemental Order, entered on May 31, 2002, the Commission joined Qwest Corporation (Qwest) as a party to the proceeding.

2 On June 5, 2002, Qwest filed a Petition for Reconsideration requesting the Commission to review the procedures and schedule established for the conduct of this proceeding. On June 6, 2002, Qwest filed a Motion to Compel seeking to obtain discovery of Commission Staff, because Staff had not been required to file testimony prior to Qwest according to the schedule initially set by the Commission.

3 **Conference:** The Commission convened a hearing on June 17, 2002, in order to hear argument on the Petition and Motion to Compel in this docket at Olympia, Washington before Administrative Law Judge Theodora M. Mace.

4 **Appearances.** Judith Endejan, Graham & Dunn, Seattle, Washington, represents Verizon Northwest Inc. Gregory Trautman, Assistant Attorney General, Olympia, Washington, represents Staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. Douglas N. Owens represents Qwest Corporation.

5 **Issues.** The parties presented oral argument on the issues raised in the Petition for Reconsideration. During the course of the argument, Staff offered to file its testimony prior to Qwest, as long as Staff could conduct discovery and could file a response to whatever testimony Qwest filed. This offer provided a resolution to Qwest’s procedural and scheduling concerns. The parties then developed a schedule of proceedings in accord with the Commission’s desire to preside if possible, as well

as the Commission's desire to complete the hearing quickly in order to accommodate provision of service to the applicants, if warranted by the evidence.

6 **Hearing schedule.** The parties agreed upon the following schedule for the proceeding:

Staff to file testimony	June 20, 2002
Qwest/Verizon to file response testimony	July 5, 2002 by noon
Staff to file reply to Qwest/Verizon	July 11, 2002
Prehearing conference	July 12, 2002, 1:30 p.m.
Evidentiary hearing	July 15-17, 2002
Simultaneous briefs	August 14, 2002
Oral argument	August 20, 2002

7 **Electronic Service.** All filings may be served by facsimile. The Commission must receive faxed filings by 3:00 p.m. on the due date, with hard copies to follow the next day by 11:00 a.m. The parties must include on all cover sheets accompanying documents served by facsimile language indicating that they have been authorized by this order to serve documents by facsimile.

8 **Discovery.** The turn around for discovery in this proceeding is four business days, and the parties should call to the attention of the Administrative Law Judge any problems that may arise due to unexpected large volumes of discovery requests that may require additional time for providing responses.

9 **Prehearing conference.** The purpose of the July 12, 2002, prehearing conference is to provide time for presenting, distributing and marking cross examination exhibits, setting an agenda for the hearing and addressing any preliminary matters necessary for the smooth conduct of the evidentiary hearing. If the Commissioners preside at the hearing, the parties will be required to bring sufficient copies to accommodate preparation of Commissioner exhibit books. The Administrative Law Judge will notify the parties in advance of the prehearing conference whether or not the Commissioners will preside at the evidentiary hearing.

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective this __th day of June, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

THEODORA M. MACE
Administrative Law Judge

NOTICE TO PARTIES: Any objection to the provisions of this Order must be filed within ten (10) days after the date of mailing of this statement, pursuant to WAC 480-09-460(2). Absent such objections, this prehearing conference order will control further proceedings in this matter, subject to Commission review.