

ISSUED: October 8, 2009

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1451

In the Matter of

MALHEUR HOME TELEPHONE
COMPANY

Application for an Order Approving
Transaction, and Request for Expedited
Consideration.

PREHEARING
CONFERENCE
REPORT

On October 6, 2009, a prehearing conference was held in this docket. The primary purposes of the conference were to identify the parties to the proceeding and to set a procedural schedule.

Appearances

Appearances were entered as follows: Mike Weirich on behalf of Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission); Dave Gabica on behalf of Malheur Home Telephone Company (Malheur); Alex Duarte and Mark Reynolds on behalf of Qwest Corporation (Qwest); and Bob Jenks on behalf of the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB).

Intervention

On September 17, 2009, Qwest filed a petition to intervene. The period for objection has passed, and no objections were filed. Qwest has sufficient interest in the proceeding and its appearance and participation will not unreasonably broaden the issues, burden the record, or unreasonably delay the proceeding. *See* OAR 860-012-0001. Qwest's petition to intervene is granted.

On October 6, 2009, CUB filed a notice of intervention in this docket. Pursuant to ORS 774.180, CUB may intervene in Commission proceedings as of right. CUB's intervention is noted.

Consolidation with Docket UA 149

Docket UA 149 is a joint application of Qwest and Malheur for an order unallocating and transferring rights to allocated territory from Malheur to Qwest. Since dockets UM 1451 and UA 149 concern the same underlying transaction, the parties at the prehearing conference proposed consolidating the dockets in order simplify the process and address any overlapping issues. The parties' request to consolidate the dockets is granted. The procedural schedule below will apply to both dockets.


Procedural Schedule

Conference participants agreed to, and I adopted, the following procedural schedule for this docket:

EVENT	DATE
Deadline for Intervention	October 13, 2009
Deadline to Oppose Intervention	October 15, 2009
Settlement Conference	To be determined by parties
Public Meeting Memorandum / Stipulation due	December 1, 2009
Public Meeting / Order due	December 8, 2009

The date for the parties' settlement conference may be scheduled and changed without notification to or authorization from the Commission.

Dated this 8th day of October, 2009, at Salem, Oregon.



Shani M. Pines
Administrative Law Judge