

Qwest 421 Southwest Oak Street Suite 810 Portland, Oregon 97204 Telephone: 503-242-5420 Facsimile: 503-242-8589 e-mail: carla.butler@qwest.com

Carla M. Butler Lead Paralegal

June 18, 2008

Frances Nichols Anglin Oregon Public Utility Commission 550 Capitol St., NE Suite 215 Salem, OR 97301

## <u>Re: UM 1354</u>

Dear Ms. Nichols Anglin:

Enclosed for filing in the above entitled matter please find an original and five (5) copies of the following:

- 1.) Joint Testimony;
- 2.) Witness Qualification Statements for David Teitzel (Qwest), Bob Jenks (CUB), Bryan Conway (PUC) and Fred Peterson (TRACER); and
- 3.) Stipulation with Price Plan as Exhibit A.

Also enclosed is a certificate of service.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Carla M. Butler

CMB: Enclosures L:\Oregon\Executive\Duarte\UM 1354 (Price Plan)\UM 1354 Transmittal Ltr 6-18-08.doc

<b>BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION</b>				
<b>OF OREGON</b>				
· ·	UM 1354			
In the Matter of	STIPULATION			
QWEST CORPORATION Petition for Approval of Price Pursuant to ORS 759.255	Plan			
This Stipulation is entered	d into for the purpose of resolving all issues in this proceeding			
by and among the parties as set f	<b>_</b>			
by and among the parties as set h				
	PARTIES			
1. The parties to this Stipulation (the "Stipulation") are Qwest Corporation				
("Qwest"), Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon ("Staff"), Citizens' Utilities Board				
("CUB"), the Telecommunications Ratepayers Association for Cost-based and Equitable Rates				
("TRACER"), <sup>1</sup> XO Communications Services, Inc. ("XO"), Time Warner Telecom of Oregon				
LLC ("TWT"), Covad Communic	cations Company ("Covad"), Integra Telecom of Oregon, Inc.			
	lecommunications Services, Inc. ("McLeod") (XO, TWT,			
	collectively referred to as the "Joint CLECs") (together, the			
	ty"). Qwest, Staff, CUB, and TRACER are collectively			
	ties." This Stipulation will be made available to other parties t			
	by signing and filing a copy of this Stipulation.			
	uties agree that approval of the price plan attached hereto as			
Ĩ	this Stipulation is in the public interest, and that the Public			
	the superation is in the public interest, and that the PUBLIC			
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
<sup>1</sup> TRACER enters this Stipul	lation on behalf of its members only. TRACER expresses no opinio of services other than those subscribed to by its members.			

PAGE 1- STIPULATION

Perkins Coie LLP 1120 N.W. Couch Street, Tenth Floor Portland, OR 97209-4128 Phone: 503.727.2000 Fax: 503.727.2222

Utility Commission of Oregon (the "Commission") should issue an order approving Owest's 1 2 petition for a price plan, this Stipulation, and the Price Plan. 3 BACKGROUND 4 3. On October 26, 2007, Qwest filed its Petition for Approval of Price Plan Pursuant 5 to ORS 759.255. The Commission opened this docket to consider Qwest's petition. CUB 6 intervened in this docket and the Commission granted TRACER, the Joint CLECs, and Verizon 7 Northwest Inc. ("Verizon") permission to intervene as parties in this docket. The Commission 8 held a pre-hearing conference on December 14, 2007, and established a schedule for this 9 proceeding. 10 4 On January 10, 2008, CUB, TRACER, and the Joint CLECs filed a motion to 11 dismiss Qwest's petition. Following further briefing on that motion, on February 28, 2008, the 12 Commission issued Order No. 08-132 denying the motion to dismiss. 13 5. On February 11, 2008, Qwest filed an amended petition along with direct 14 testimony and exhibits in support thereof. 15 Staff, CUB, TRACER, and the Joint CLECS have reviewed Qwest's petition and 6. 16 amended petition, the pre-filed testimony and exhibits of Qwest, Qwest's responses to the 17 extensive discovery requests submitted in this proceeding, and additional information provided 18 by Owest. 19 7. On January 11, 2008, the Commission held a workshop/settlement conference. 20 The Commission held further settlement conferences, both in person and via teleconference, on 21 March 19, 2008, April 25, 2008, April 29, 2008, May 2, 2008, and May 7, 2008. The settlement 22 conferences have been open to all parties to this docket. 23 8. The term "Petition" as used in this Stipulation shall be deemed to refer to Owest's 24 petition for approval of the Price Plan in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A. 25 26 Perkins Coie LLP STIPULATION

13141-0746/LEGAL14282039.1

PAGE 2-

1120 N.W. Couch Street, Tenth Floor Portland, OR 97209-4128 Phone: 503.727.2000 Fax: 503.727.2222

#### AGREEMENT

2 9. Exhibit A sets forth the terms and conditions of the Price Plan which the 3 Stipulation Parties agree the Commission should approve. By virtue of executing this 4 Stipulation, Qwest agrees to abide by and perform all terms of this Stipulation and the Price Plan. 5 The Price Plan contains agreements of the Parties that are additional to those set forth in this Stipulation (the term "Parties" in the Price Plan has the same meaning as in this Stipulation). By 6 7 virtue of executing this Stipulation, the Parties agree to abide by and perform all agreements set 8 forth in this Stipulation as well as those set forth in the Price Plan as if they were set forth in this 9 Stipulation. 10 10. Neither the terms and conditions of the Price Plan nor the Commission's approval 11 thereof limits the rights of Competitive Local Exchange Carriers ("CLECs") to raise any issues 12 regarding the rates, terms, and conditions for wholesale products and services, including but not 13 limited to wholesale products or services made available to CLECs pursuant to tariffs, price lists, 14 or catalogues that are also made available to retail customers and that are otherwise subject to the 15 terms and conditions of this Price Plan. 16 11. The Parties agree that the Price Plan will be effective immediately following 17 (1) the Commission's approval of the Petition, this Stipulation, and the Price Plan, and (2) the 18 provision of notice as described in this paragraph. Subject to the terms of paragraph 15 of this 19 Stipulation, upon entry of a Commission order approving the Petition, this Stipulation, and the 20 Price Plan, Qwest will provide written notice to the Commission which (1) accepts the 21 Commission's order and indicates Qwest's intention to commence operation under the Price Plan and (2) indicates Qwest's election to no longer be subject to ORS 759.405 to 759.410. 22 23 12. The Stipulation Parties acknowledge that the terms of this Stipulation and the

Price Plan satisfy the "public interest" standard set forth in ORS 759.255 for approval of the
Price Plan.

26

1

#### PAGE 3- STIPULATION

Perkins Coie LLP 1120 N.W. Couch Street, Tenth Floor Portland, OR 97209-4128 Phone: 503.727.2000 Fax: 503.727.2222

13141-0746/LEGAL14282039.1

1 13. The Stipulation Parties agree to support Commission approval of the Petition, this Stipulation, and the Price Plan. The Joint CLECs agree not to oppose Commission approval of 2 the Petition and the Price Plan. This Stipulation will be offered into the record of this proceeding 3 4 as evidence pursuant to OAR 860-014-0085. The Stipulation Parties agree to support this Stip-5 ulation throughout this proceeding and any appeal, provide either witnesses to sponsor testimony or legal representatives to support this Stipulation. The Stipulation Parties will recommend the 6 7 Commission issue an order adopting the agreements contained herein and approving Owest's 8 Petition, this Stipulation, and the Price Plan. If any other party to this proceeding challenges this Stipulation, the Stipulation Parties agree to cooperate in cross-examination and put on such a 9 10 case as they deem appropriate to respond fully to the issues presented, which may include 11 addressing issues incorporated in the settlements embodied in this Stipulation.

12 14. The Stipulation Parties will encourage the Commission to enter an order
13 approving Qwest's Petition, the Stipulation, and the Price Plan as soon as possible and not later
14 than July 31, 2008.

15 15. The Parties have negotiated this Stipulation as an integrated document. If the Commission rejects all or any material part of this Stipulation or the Price Plan or imposes 16 17 additional material conditions in approving the Stipulation and the Price Plan, any Party disadvantaged by such action shall have the right, upon written notice to the Commission and all 18 19 other Parties within 15 business days of the Commission's order, to withdraw from this 20 Stipulation, pursue their rights under OAR 860-014-0085, and/or seek reconsideration or appeal 21 of the Commission's order. However, prior to withdrawal, the Party shall engage in good faith negotiation with the other Parties. No Party withdrawing from this Stipulation shall be bound to 22 23 any position, commitment, or condition of this Stipulation.

16. The Parties agree that this Stipulation represents compromises in the positions of
the Parties. As such, conduct, statements, and documents disclosed in the negotiation of this
Stipulation shall not be admissible as evidence in this or any other proceeding. By entering into

Perkins Coie LLP 1120 N.W. Couch Street, Tenth Floor Portland, OR 97209-4128 Phone: 503.727.2000 Fax: 503.727.2222

#### 13141-0746/LEGAL14282039.1

PAGE 4-

STIPULATION

1	this Stipulat	this Stipulation, no Party shall be deemed to have approved, admitted, or consented to the facts,				
2	principles, n	principles, methods, or theories employed by any other Party in arriving at the terms of this				
3	Stipulation,	Stipulation, other than those specifically identified in the body of this Stipulation. No Party shall				
4	be deemed to	be deemed to have agreed that any provision of this Stipulation is appropriate for resolving				
5	issues in any	issues in any other proceeding, except as expressly identified in the Stipulation.				
6	17.	17. The effective date of this Stipulation as to each Party shall be the date of that				
. 7	Party's signa	Party's signature to the Stipulation.				
8	18.	18. This Stipulation may be executed in counterparts and each signed counterpart				
9	shall constitu	shall constitute an original document.				
10	This Stipulation is entered into by each Party as of the date(s) entered below:					
11			QWEST CORPORATION			
12			Substanten			
13			By: Judith A. Peppler//			
14			Dated: 5/16/08			
15						
16	•		STAFF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON			
17			COMMISSION OF OREGOIN			
18	· · ·	· · · ·	By:			
19	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	•	Its: Dated:			
20			Dateu.			
21	·		CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD			
22			CHILLING UTILITY BOARD			
23			By:			
24			Its: Dated:			
25						
26						
			Perkins Coie LLP			

Perkins Cole LLP 1120 N.W. Couch Street, Tenth Floor Portland, OR 97209-4128 Phone: 503.727.2000 Fax: 503.727.2222

1	this Stipulation, no Party shall be deemed to have approved, admitted, or consented to the facts,				
2	principles, methods, or theories employed by any other Party in arriving at the terms of this				
3	Stipulation, other than those specifically identified in the body of this Stipulation. No Party shall				
4	be deemed to have agreed that any provision of this Stipulation is appropriate for resolving				
5	issues in any other proceeding, except as expressly identified in the Stipulation.				
6	17. The effective date of this Stipulation as to each Party shall be the date of that				
7	Party's signature to the Stipulation.				
8	18. This Stipulation may be executed in counterparts and each signed counterpart				
. 9	shall constitute an original document.				
10	This Stipulation is entered into by each Party as of the date(s) entered below:				
11			QWEST CORPORATION		
12					
13			By:		
14			Its: Dated:		
15					
16			STAFF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY		
17			COMMISSION OF OREGON		
18	·		Mike in		
19			By: Mike heirich Its: Attaney		
20			Dated: 440003 5/16/08		
21					
22			CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD		
23					
24			By: Its:		
25			Dated:		
26					
PAGE	5- STIPU	JLATION	Perkins Coie LLP 1120 N.W. Couch Street, Tenth Floor Portland OB 97209 4128		

13141-0746/LEGAL14282039.1

120 N.W. Couch Street, Tenth Floo Portland, OR 97209-4128 Phone: 503.727.2000 Fax: 503.727.2222

1	this Stipulation, no Party shall be deemed to have approved, admitted, or consented to the facts,				
2	principles, methods, or theories employed by any other Party in arriving at the terms of this				
3	Stipulation, other than those specifically identified in the body of this Stipulation. No Party shall				
4	be deemed to have agreed that any provision of this Stipulation is appropriate for resolving				
5	issues in any other proceeding, except as expressly identified in the Stipulation.				
6	17. The effective date of this Stipulation as to each Party shall be the date of that				
7	Party's signature to the Stipulation.				
8	18. This Stipulation may be executed in counterparts and each signed counterpart				
9	shall constitute an original document.				
10	This Stipulation is entered into by each Party as of the date(s) entered below:				
11		QWEST CORPORATION			
12					
13		By:			
14	•	Its: Dated:			
15					
16		STAFF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY			
17		COMMISSION OF OREGON			
18					
19		By: Its:			
20	. ·	Dated:			
21					
22		CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD			
23		Al Mila			
24		By: 1306 Jentis Its: 6xecutive Piractor			
25	<b>.</b>	Dated: 5-19-08			
26					
PAGE	5- STIPULATION	Perkins Cole LLP 1120 N.W. Couch Street, Tenth Floor Portland OP 97209-4128			

1120 N.W. Couch Street, Tenth Floor Portland, OR 97209-4128 Phone: 503.727.2000 Fax: 503.727.2222

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION FOR COST-BASED AND EQUITABLE RATES

By: Arthur A. Butler Its: Attorney Dated: May 16, 2008

JOINT CLECs

By: Its: Dated:

## PAGE 6- STIPULATION

I

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

Perkins Coie LLP 1120 N.W. Couch Street, Tenth Floor Portland, OR. 97209-4128 Phone: 503.727.2000 Fax: 503.727.2222

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION FOR COST-BASED AND EQUITABLE RATES

By: Its: Dated:

JOINT CLECs

By Mark P. Trinchero Its: Attorney Dated: May 19, 2008

PAGE 6- STIPULATION

Perkins Coie LLP 1120 N.W. Couch Street, Tenth Floor Portland, OR 97209-4128 Phone: 503.727.2000 Fax: 503.727.2222

## **QWEST'S PRICE PLAN UNDER ORS 759.255**

## I. Definitions

- A. "Alternative provider" means a provider, other than Qwest Corporation ("Qwest") or any affiliate of Qwest, of any service that is a functionally equivalent or substitutable service, without regard to the technology used to provide the service and without regard to whether the provider is subject to regulation by the Commission or any other agency. "Alternative provider" includes but is not limited to telecommunications carriers, radio common carriers, cable telephony providers, and providers of voice over internet protocol ("VoIP") service.
- B. "Essential functions" means those unbundled network elements (UNEs) that ILECs are required to provide pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 251(c)(3) according to the most current requirements of the FCC. "Nonessential functions" are all other functions used in providing a telecommunications service that are not essential functions. The price of essential functions is the Commission-approved price for UNE purchases by wholesale customers; the price for UNEs without Commission-approved prices is the rate in Qwest's most current Negotiations Template Agreement for Oregon, Exhibit A, which is available at http://www.qwest.com/wholesale/clecs/sgatswireline.html.
- C. "Functionally equivalent or substitutable" means that a service is reasonably interchangeable with the service to which it is being compared, even if the services are not identical, without regard to the technology used to provide the service or whether the service or provider are subject to regulation by the Commission.
- **D.** "New service" means a retail telecommunications service that is offered in Oregon for the first time following the effective date of this price plan. A service is not a new service if it merely renames, repackages, or is a variation of an existing service, or if it is reintroduced in substantially the same form after having being withdrawn or abandoned.
- E. "Portland CPI" means the Consumer Price Index as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor for the Portland, Oregon, area, specifically known as "Series Title: CPI - U: Portland-Salem, OR-WA; All items; 1982-84=100; NSA" and currently found at <u>http://www.bls.gov</u>.
- F. "Pre-plan rates" means the rates charged by Qwest in Oregon pursuant to its tariffs or price lists that were effective on January 1, 2008, or Qwest's original introductory price for any new service introduced after January 1, 2008, but before the effective date of this price plan.
- G. "Primary line basic service" means the first line only of basic local exchange service for an individual residential or business customer account at a single location that is not sold as part of a package. For purposes of this definition, "basic local exchange service" means residential single party flat rate local

exchange service; residential single party measured local exchange service, including local exchange usage; business single party flat rate local exchange service in Rate Groups 1 and 2 (the classification of Qwest exchanges by Rate Group is set forth in Qwest's P.U.C. Oregon No. 33 Exchange and Network Services tariff, Section 5.1.2); and business single party measured local exchange service, including local exchange usage in Rate Groups 1 and 2.

## II. Objectives of Price Plan

- A. General objectives. Qwest's price plan will achieve the following objectives:
  - 1. Ensure the plan is operating in a way that is in the public interest.
  - 2. Produce prices for Qwest's retail telecommunications services that are just and reasonable.
  - 3. Ensure that the quality of existing telecommunications services will stay at or above current high levels. Quest will meet or exceed the Commission's applicable retail service standards and will continue its current reporting practices.
  - 4. Maintain the availability of primary line basic service at affordable rates.
  - 5. Allow Qwest to price other services competitively with services offered by alternative providers, including those using landline, wireless, cable, and VoIP technologies.
  - 6. Increase Qwest's pricing flexibility to meet changing market conditions.
  - 7. Make new telecommunications services available.
  - 8. Simplify and reduce the burden of regulation for both Qwest and the Commission.

## B. Specific commitments.

1. Service performance guarantee. Within 90 days of the effective date of the price plan, Qwest will implement a service performance guarantee program which includes guaranteed appointments and guaranteed commitments for specific types of services, which will be backed by a promise to credit customers \$25.00 for each missed commitment. The commitments and credits will be subject in the tariff to reasonable and customary exceptions for matters which are outside of Qwest's reasonable control, including without limitation rescheduling and unavailability of the customer, severe weather, severe public disturbances, and labor difficulties (e.g., strikes, slowdowns, picketing, and boycotts).

- **a.** <u>Service Types</u>. Qwest will offer guaranteed appointments and guaranteed commitments for the following types of services:
  - (i) Reconnect an existing service following move-out/move-in or disconnection for non-payment.
  - (ii) Connect a new or additional service or change an existing service.
  - (iii) Repair existing service when a customer is unable to receive and/or place a telephone call.
- b. <u>Guaranteed appointment</u>. A guaranteed appointment is a mutually agreed upon appointment for a given day between a customer and Qwest for a service to be provided which requires the customer to be present. A guaranteed appointment is considered kept if: 1) the Qwest representative arrives by the agreed upon date even if the service is completed at a later date, or 2) Qwest notifies the customer the day following the day the order was placed that it will be unable to meet the due date because of a lack of available facilities and a new appointment must be made.
- c. <u>Guaranteed commitment</u>. A guaranteed commitment is a mutually agreed upon commitment between a customer and Qwest to provide service on or before a specific date when the service to be provided does not require that the customer be present.
- 2. Network and other project investments. Qwest will make incremental investments of \$4 million in network improvements and other projects as a shareholder expense. Specific projects will be agreed to by Qwest and the Commission or its designee. These investments will be made during the first three years of the price plan, unless otherwise provided in the plan or directed by the Commission. Qwest will file its proposed investment plan with the Commission prior to expending any of these funds.
  - a. Consumer information center. One of the projects will be the establishment and operation of a consumer information center which will provide information to Oregon consumers to assist with understanding the nature and pricing of service offerings by telecommunications carriers and alternative providers. Of the total network investment, Qwest will commit up to a total of \$2 million towards this project. Establishment and operation of this center will be overseen by the Commission and the specific details such as the actual amount of the investment, the timing of the investment (which may be made over the first five years of operation under the price plan), the scope of operations, the identity of the operator, and the operating budget will be

discussed among the Parties and established by the Commission following approval of plan.

**3.** Service quality reporting. Qwest will not seek an exemption from its current service quality reporting requirements pursuant to OAR 860-023-0055(16)(d).

## III. Pricing and Availability of Services Under Price Plan

- A. Initial Rates. The rates that Qwest charges upon commencing operation under the price plan will be its pre-plan rates. These rates are subject to adjustment as provided below.
- B. Primary line basic service.
  - 1. Price caps.
    - a. <u>Non-recurring charges</u>. Non-recurring charges for primary line basic services are capped at pre-plan rates.
    - b. <u>Recurring charges for residential service</u>. Primary line basic service for residential customers will be subject to price caps. The initial price cap will be pre-plan rates.
    - c. <u>Recurring charges for business service</u>. Primary line basic service for business customers will be subject to price caps. The initial price cap will be pre-plan rates. Without the need for Qwest to file a petition or otherwise seek Commission approval, the price cap will increase to \$1.00 above pre-plan rates on the third anniversary of the effective date of the plan, unless the Commission has already increased the price cap by at least \$1.00 before the third anniversary based on a petition by Qwest under Section III.B.3. of the price plan.
    - d. <u>Adjustment of prices</u>. Qwest is permitted to adjust recurring and non-recurring charges for primary line basic service upward or downward between the price caps and the applicable price floors for primary line basic service.
  - 2. <u>Availability</u>. Qwest will continue to offer primary line basic service on a stand-alone basis (*i.e.*, Qwest will not require customers to purchase a package to obtain these services).
  - 3. <u>Petition to remove or adjust price caps</u>. Quest may petition the Commission to remove or adjust the price caps for primary line basic service. Quest will have the burden to show that removal or adjustment of the price caps for primary line basic service will result in rates that are just and reasonable, considering the factors set forth in Section V.B.2.b. of

this plan. The Commission may also consider whether removal or adjustment of the price caps is in the public interest, considering the factors set forth in ORS 759.255(2). Qwest may not file any such petition with respect to primary line basic service for residential customers until after the fourth anniversary of the effective date of the price plan and no increase, if granted by the Commission, would be effective until after the fifth anniversary of the effective date of the price plan. Qwest may file such a petition with respect to primary line basic service for business customers at any time.

- C. Business Basic Services in Rate Group 3. Certain basic business services in Rate Group 3, including primary line basic local exchange service, will not be included in the plan. These include business single party flat rate local exchange service, business single party measured local exchange service, including local exchange usage, and private branch exchange (PBX) service. The prices for these services will continue to be established by the Commission pursuant to ORS 759.425(2)(a).
- **D. Telephone Assistance Plans.** Qwest will continue to offer current Telephone Assistance Plans (OTAP, Tribal Lifeline, and Link-Up) pursuant to state and federal requirements.
- E. Public Access Lines. The rates for public access line (PAL) service will continue to be regulated by the Commission pursuant to federal requirements.
- F. Switched Access. Rates for intrastate switched access services are capped at preplan rates. The Commission may adjust the price caps if required by FCC action.
- **G. EAS.** Rates for extended area service (EAS) are capped at pre-plan rates. Qwest will not be required to establish any new or expanded EAS routes as long as it operates under the price plan.
- H. Toll Restriction. Rates for toll restriction service are capped at pre-plan rates.
- I. Call Trace (\*59). Rates for call trace services (*i.e.*, \*59) are capped at pre-plan rates.
- J. Unlisted Numbers/Directory Listings. Rates for unlisted numbers are capped at pre-plan rates. Qwest will continue to include directory listings with basic service.
- K. DS-1 Service. Rates for intrastate DS-1 service will be subject to a price cap. With the exception of the recurring rates for the transport mileage elements, the initial price cap for each rate element for both recurring and non-recurring charges will be the average of the rates charged for that rate element as of May 1, 2008 in the 13 other states in Qwest's ILEC region. The initial price cap for each recurring transport mileage element will be 125 percent of pre-plan rates. The

price cap will increase annually by the amount of increase in the Portland CPI for the corresponding time period.

- L. ISDN-PRI Service. Rates for intrastate ISDN-PRI service will be subject to a price cap. The initial price cap for each rate element for both recurring and non-recurring charges will be the average of the rates charged for that rate element as of May 1, 2008 in the 13 other states in Qwest's ILEC region. The price cap will increase annually by the amount of increase in the Portland CPI for the corresponding time period.
- M. New Services. Rates for all new services will be priced above the applicable price floor. Subsequent price increases will be subject to the price cap as established in Section III.N.1.
- N. Other Retail Services. Each rate for all remaining residential and business services not previously listed in this section ("Other Services") is subject to a price cap as follows:
  - 1. Qwest may increase the rate for each service up to 50 percent annually. However, the cumulative rate increase over any rolling five-year period is not to exceed 200 percent.
  - 2. For directory assistance, Qwest is allowed to remove the monthly two free-call allowance as well as increase rates pursuant to the price cap defined in Section III.N.(1) of this plan.

Qwest may increase or decrease such rates, subject only to the price cap set forth above and a price floor equal to the total service long run incremental cost for nonessential functions of providing the service and the charges for essential functions used in providing the service.

- **O.** No Further Deaveraging. Qwest agrees that it will not geographically deaverage the rate for any services under the plan any further than they were as of January 1, 2008.
- **P. Packages and Bundles.** Qwest may combine any regulated telecommunications service with any other service(s) to offer packages and bundles of services, which may include primary line basic service and EAS, at any price, subject to the following conditions:
  - 1. Customers can purchase separately from the company's tariff or price list any regulated telecommunications service included in the package or bundle.
  - 2. The package or bundle price is not less than the sum of the price floors (determined pursuant to ORS 759.255(4)) of the regulated telecommunications services included the package or bundle.

- 3. The package or bundle price is not more than the sum of the retail prices of all services available in the package or bundle.
- 4. Qwest will provide notice to the Commission of any change in price or withdrawal of a package or bundle within 30 days after the effective date of the change.
- 5. Qwest's procedure is and will continue to be to advise customers when the price for the specific services they select from those available in a package or bundle would be lower if the services were purchased separately and not in a package or bundle.
- Q. Notice of price changes. Qwest will provide the Commission notice of price increases for services within Sections III.B. to III.L. by making tariff filings at least 30 days prior to the effective date of such price changes. Qwest will provide the Commission notice of price decreases for services within Sections III.B. to III.L. by making tariff filings at least one day prior to the effective date of such price decreases. Qwest will make price list filings for new services and Other Services within Sections III.M. and III.N. at least one day prior to the effective date of any price change. Qwest will also provide customers with at least 30 days' prior notice of price increases for services they are purchasing at the time of the price increase. For services purchased on a per-call basis, Qwest will give reasonable notice to the customer of the price prior to the customer's use of the service.
- **R.** Services exempt from regulation. Services that the Commission has already ordered to be exempt from regulation will remain exempt from regulation subject to the conditions of the order that exempted the service from regulation. Qwest retains the ability to petition the Commission to exempt additional services from regulation under ORS 759.052.
- S. Special contracts. Qwest may offer primary line basic service and other regulated services under special contracts pursuant to ORS 759.250.
- **T. Promotions.** Qwest may offer promotions for primary line basic service and other regulated services pursuant to ORS 759.182.

## IV. Waiver of statutes and rules

- A. Statutes. Qwest's compliance with the following statutes, and all Commission rules implementing these statutes, is waived in full, unless a partial waiver is noted:
  - ORS 759.120 (partial, to the extent allowed in Commission Order No. 06-514)
  - ORS 759.125 (partial, to the extent allowed in Commission Order No. 06-514)

- ORS 759.130 (partial, to the extent allowed in correspondence between Qwest and the Commission from May 4, 2004 through December 21, 2004; see copies attached as Attachment A). In addition, Qwest will include the following detailed information in the Annual Report Form O, Schedule Ob-1, Oregon Rate Base: Plant Additions in Column (d), Plant Retirements in Column (e), and Transfers and Adjustments in Column (f); with the Commission's approval, Qwest may present this information in a different format.
- ORS 759.135 (partial, to the extent allowed in Commission Order No. 06-514)
- ORS 759.180 to ORS 759.200 (with the exception of ORS 759.182)
- ORS 759.215(2)
- ORS 759.220 with regard to joint rates and establishment of new through services, but not with regard to canceling any existing through service.
- ORS 759.285
- ORS 759.300 to ORS 759.393
- **B. Rules.** Qwest's compliance with the following Commission rules is waived in full, unless a partial waiver is noted:
  - OAR 860-023-0055(15)(a)
  - OAR 860-027-0015 (partial, to the extent agreed to between Qwest and Commission Staff in an October 7, 2004 letter and a November 7, 2004 meeting; *see* copies attached as Attachment A).
  - OAR 860-027-0050 (partial, to the extent allowed in Commission Order No. 06-514)
  - OAR 860-027-0052
  - OAR 860-027-0070 (partial, to the extent allowed in correspondence between Qwest and the Commission from May 4, 2004 through December 21, 2004; *see* copies attached as Attachment A). In addition, Qwest will include the following detailed information in the Annual Report Form O, Schedule Ob-1, Oregon Rate Base: Plant Additions in Column (d), Plant Retirements in Column (e), and Transfers and Adjustments in Column (f); with the Commission's approval, Qwest may present this information in a different format.
  - OAR 860-032-0190 (partial). This rule defines "basic telephone service" for purposes of administering ORS 759.425, among other statutes. Qwest seeks a

partial waiver of this rule so that the Commission will establish the rates for only certain basic business services in Rate Group 3 (identified in Section III. C. above), which services are not included in the plan. Pursuant to this partial waiver, only the services listed in OAR 860-032-0190(3)(b), (d), (e), and (f) and provided in Rate Group 3 would be considered "basic telephone service" for purposes of applying ORS 759.425(2)(a). For all other purposes involving application of the rule, including administration and distribution of the universal service fund, Qwest would still be subject to the definition of "basic telephone service" found in OAR 860-032-0190.

## V. Conditions for Review of Qwest's Performance Under Plan

- A. Five-year reviews. Qwest's performance under the price plan will be comprehensively reviewed by the Commission every five years. To commence that review, Qwest will file a detailed report regarding its performance as compared to the objectives of the plan by the 90th day of the fifth year of operation under the plan, and every five years thereafter unless and until ordered otherwise by the Commission. Qwest will promptly respond to data requests submitted by Staff and other parties related to information contained in Qwest's report.
  - 1. **Contents of Report.** The report will review how the objectives of the plan are being met and will include the following information:
    - a. A summary of Qwest's performance for the review period with respect to the Commission's retail service quality standards and any other relevant information.
    - b. An analysis of current market conditions for the various categories of Qwest's regulated retail telecommunications services and functionally equivalent or substitutable services, to the extent such information is publicly available.
    - c. Data regarding the gain or loss of access lines, organized by Qwest Oregon wire center.
    - d. A discussion of how the pricing flexibility allows Qwest to meet the plan's objectives.
    - e. A detailed description of Qwest's network investments and other project investments as committed to in the plan.
    - f. Identification of any new services Qwest has introduced.
    - g. Identification of any ways in which the burden of regulation for both Qwest and the Commission has been simplified or reduced.

- 2. Performance of objectives. The Commission will evaluate Qwest's performance as compared to the objectives of the plan. If the Commission determines that Qwest has not substantially satisfied its objectives, as set forth in Section II of this plan, the Commission may enter discussions with Qwest to establish an agreement, including a timeline and a process, under which Qwest will achieve compliance with the objectives. If the Commission and Qwest cannot reach such an agreement within a reasonable time of commencing such discussions the Commission may order modifications to the plan, following notice and an opportunity for hearing, or open an investigation under Section V.B.3. of this plan.
- **3.** Evaluation of market, modifications to plan. The Commission will review the data submitted by Qwest and other relevant evidence regarding the competitiveness of the market for services that are functionally equivalent or substitutable for services offered by Qwest and determine whether other modifications to the plan are appropriate to provide Qwest with additional regulatory flexibility beyond that included in the original price plan or better ensure the plan is in the public interest according to the factors set forth in ORS 759.255(2).

## B. Ongoing conditions for review

1. Review of service quality. The Commission may review Qwest's retail customer service quality at any time during operation of the price plan. If Qwest does not meet the objective service levels for one or more individual standards in OAR 860-023-0055 for three months out of a twelve month sliding window,<sup>1</sup> then the Commission may require Qwest to submit a performance plan pursuant to ORS 759.450(5) and may suspend Qwest's authority under the price plan to increase retail prices until such time as Qwest has met all the goals of the performance plan. If the Commission determines after a notice and an opportunity for hearing that Qwest has not met the goals of a performance plan within six months, or if the plan is disapproved by the Commission, then, in addition to the remedies set forth in ORS 759.450(5) – (7), the Commission may open an investigation under Section V.B.3. of this plan.

## 2. Review of rate increases.

a. **Procedure for review.** The Commission may investigate Qwest's rate for any of the Other Services upon receiving a complaint filed by any affected person, or by the Commission on its own motion, at any time. The Commission shall follow its ordinary hearing procedures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Sliding 12-month window: The 12-month window consists of the current reporting month and data from the previous eleven months. For example, using "commitments for service" with an objective service level of 90 percent (OAR 860-023-0055(4)(b)(A)), a performance plan may be required if three or more months during the 12-month window were reported with less than 90 percent commitments met. Each new month would look at the adjusted 12-month window and the data would be compared to the objective service level.

**b.** Standard for review. The party(ies) bringing the complaint will have the burden to show that the market has not produced a just and reasonable rate for that service. In making this determination, the Commission will also consider:

- Whether a retail telecommunications service or a functionally equivalent or substitutable service is available from one or more telecommunications carriers or alternative providers in the relevant market;
- (ii) The prices, terms, and conditions for functionally equivalent or substitutable services that are available from one or more telecommunications carriers or alternative providers; and
- (iii) Such other factors as determined by the Commission.

**Remedy.** If the Commission sustains such a complaint, the c. Commission may adjust the price cap for the specific service to ensure that the rate is just and reasonable. The Parties agree that the Commission should first consider a price cap which is no lower than the rate that was in effect before the most recent price change for that service (the "Prior Rate") if the Prior Rate was in effect for at least six months. If the Prior Rate was not in effect for at least six months, the Parties agree that the Commission should then consider a price cap which is no lower than the rate that was in effect immediately before the Prior Rate. The Parties further agree that the Commission may order a different price cap, and the Parties will not advocate for a price cap that is lower than the pre-plan rate. Unless the Commission orders otherwise, if the service was originally subject to Section III(N) "Other Retail Services," then the new price cap will continue to be subject to those price increase restrictions.

## 3. Public interest.

a. The Commission may open an investigation at any time pursuant to ORS 756.515 to determine whether further adjustments to the price plan or termination of the price plan is required by the public interest, according to the factors set forth in ORS 759.255(2). The Commission may order further adjustments to the price plan or termination of the price plan only after providing Qwest notice and an opportunity for hearing. If the Commission determines to hold such a hearing, it may suspend Qwest's authority to increase prices pending the conclusion of the proceeding. In any such investigation and proceeding, the Parties agree that the Commission should first attempt to identify and require adjustments to the price plan such that continuation of the price plan is in the public interest before it orders termination of the price plan (unless this proceeding was opened pursuant to Section V.A.2. of the plan).

**b.** If the Commission orders termination of the price plan, the Parties agree the Commission may also, in the same proceeding, adjust Qwest's rates to ensure that Qwest's rates are just and reasonable, and the Parties agree not to advocate for rates that are lower than pre-plan rates. Qwest would no longer be able increase its rates as it was permitted to do under the price plan, but Qwest would be allowed to decrease its rates subject to any applicable price floor.

c. If the Commission orders termination of the price plan, Qwest may thereafter pursue any form of price regulation or relief therefrom then permitted under Oregon law, including but not limited to: exemptions from regulation pursuant to ORS 759.052; price listing pursuant to ORS 759.054, 759.056, and/or 759.195; rate regulation pursuant to ORS 759.175 – 759.190; another price plan pursuant to ORS 759.255; or price cap regulation pursuant to ORS 759.405 – 759.410.

**d.** If the Commission orders termination of the price plan, the Commission may thereafter commence a proceeding to set Qwest's rates pursuant to ORS 759.175 – 759.190, and Qwest will not object on the ground that it is not subject to earnings-based or rate-of-return regulation because of either its 1999 election of price cap regulation pursuant to ORS 759.405 – 759.410 or the Commission's approval of this price plan pursuant to ORS 759.255. The Parties agree that the Commission should not commence any such proceeding within 120 days of the effective date of termination of the plan in order to provide Qwest the opportunity to first pursue an alternative option as set forth in Section V.B.3.c. of this plan. Qwest agrees to maintain records sufficient to create a Form O and Form I, and associated detail, and to maintain other data sufficient for use in a general rate case.

e. The Parties agree that if the Commission orders termination of the price plan, the Commission should further order that Sections V.B.3.b., V.B.3.c., and V.B.3.d. of the plan are severable from the rest of the price plan and will remain in effect after the price plan's termination.

Attachment 1 Page 1 of 15





**Public Utility Commission** 

550 Capitol Street NE, Suite 215 Mailing Address: PO Box 2148 Salem, OR 97308-2148 Consumer Services 1-800-522-2404 Local: 503-378-6600 Administrative Services 503-373-7394

May 4, 2004

Judy Peppler Qwest 421 SW Oak St., Ste 8S3 Portland, OR 97204

Dear Judy:

I'm following up on our discussion at the Regional Oversight Committee meeting in Denver. As you recall, Dick Notabaert mentioned that one of the problems being faced by Qwest was production of reports that had limited value to either regulators or the company. I thought about that, and would like to think that was not the case in Oregon. However, if it is, we should address the problem.

I've discussed this with Phil Nyegaard and asked that he contact you and discuss how we should approach reviewing the current reporting system. If there is a better way to do things, we should do it. If we are collecting useless information, we should stop. I hope we can work together to make sure that the regulatory information necessary for us to do our job can be gathered in the most efficient and least costly manner.

Chairm ever.

Oregon Public Vility Commission

cc:

Commissioners Savage & Baum Phil Nyegaard, Manager, Telecom Division Lee Sparling, Utility Director

Attachment 1 Page 2 of 15

Spirit of Service"

Qwest 421 Southwest Oak Street Suits 6S3 Portland, Oregon 97204 Phone: 503-242-8234 FAX: 503-242-8485 e-mail: judy.peppler@qwest.com

Judy Peppler President - Oregon

May 21, 2004

Lee Beyer, Chairman Oregon Public Utility Commission P. O. Box 2148 Salem, OR 97308-2148

Dear Lee:

Thank you for providing Qwest the opportunity to provide input as a follow up to Dick Notebaert's speech at the spring ROC meeting where he challenged states to reduce regulatory reports that had little or no value. Don Mason and Phil Nyegaard have discussed the process to handle your request and agreed that a written response is the best way to get started.

Generally speaking, Qwest in Oregon believes it has made significant progress in the elimination of certain reporting requirements particularly since Qwest opted into SB 622. However, based on your request, we have developed a list of ten areas where we believe further review needs to be undertaken to ensure the time and effort required to generate the information is necessary given Qwest's current form of regulation and the state of the industry. Particularly as it relates to financial reports, many of the items on the list appear to be a carryover from rate of return regulation.

Thank you for taking Dick's message to heart and the opportunity to provide input to the PUC on this matter.

Sincer

Attachment

cc: Commissioner Ray Baum Commissioner John Savage Phil Nyegaard, OPUC Lee Sparling, OPUC Don Mason, Qwest

#### **Service Quality**

<u>Abnormal Condition Reports (ACR)</u>: Qwest currently provides the Commission staff copies of significant network outage reports throughout the month. In order to accomplish this activity, Qwest must monitor all reports and identify those reports that are relevant to the PUC which results in a significant work effort. Qwest could avoid most of this manual work effort associated with the current reporting process by simply agreeing to notify the OPUC staff verbally when <u>major outages</u> occur and following up in writing on those events as required. Qwest has been unable to identify either a statute or rule requirement for this level of detailed reporting.

<u>Service Quality Wirecenter Detail</u>: Qwest believes that the current requirement of reporting trouble reports and repair clearing times at a wirecenter or geographic level of detail is unnecessary when the overall service result meets the OPUC standard.

Interoffice Blocking: Current OPUC rules require the reporting of interoffice trunk blockage on trunk groups that exceed 1% blockage. Qwest believes this information is of little value to the Commission on a monthly basis and proposes that this reporting requirement be eliminated. Qwest proposes this reporting requirement be replaced with a process of responding to specific areas of concern that are raised by the staff as a result of complaints.

#### **Financial**

Qwest opted out of rate of return regulation beginning January 1, 2000. Under the provisions of the law, a telecommunications carrier that elects to be subject to ORS 759.405 shall not be subject to any other retail rate regulation, including any form of earnings-based, rate-based or rate of return regulation. Because the company is no longer regulated based on its earnings, the following reports could be eliminated and/or substantially reduced.

<u>Budget of Expenditures</u>: In the telecommunications workshop held April 28 to address potential "clean-up" changes to ORS 759, Qwest believes there was agreement from the OPUC staff that the filing of the Budget of Expenditures for Qwest is no longer necessary under price cap regulation. The purpose of ORS 759.100 – 759-115 is to determine whether or not the forecasted expenditures of the telecommunications utility are just and reasonable and should be considered in future ratemaking proceedings. Since Qwest is under price cap regulation, the budget of expenditures serves no purpose and should be eliminated as a filing requirement.

Form O - Total Company and Total State Financial Report:

Oregon law specifies that telecommunications utilities file financial reports "on forms designated by the Commission." The current Oregon reporting format is not easily produced from Qwest's internal financial reports nor from the standard financial and operational reports that the company files with the FCC. As such, Qwest, which is not

regulated based on its financial results, spends over 80 hours each year in reformatting its financial results into the Oregon Form O reporting format. Competitive providers, which also are not regulated on their earnings, are not required to file this information.

The Form O format used by the Commission appears to provide the Staff with the detailed information it needs for overseeing and reviewing the earnings of companies that are regulated under an earnings-based, rate-based or rate of return-based method. However, the detailed information requested on the form does not appear to be necessary for a company that is not earnings or rate of return regulated. Completing the form requires Qwest to spend significant resources to research account detail from general ledgers, prepare the reporting entries and insure the report balances to its FCC produced report.

Qwest suggests that the financial reports no longer be required, however, if the Commission finds the Qwest's Oregon financial results are of some value, both the total company and state of Oregon income statement and various financial reports can be obtained from the FCC's ARMIS reporting website. Financial, operational and service quality reports are available at the following location: <u>www.fcc.gov/wcb/eafs</u> Any of the preset reports can be downloaded and accessed directly.

Creating an entirely new financial report for Oregon reporting purposes requires considerable time and effort, is of limited value (if any) in the commission's regulation of the company, and a standardized format is readily available on the internet at the Total Company and Oregon state level today.

<u>Form I – Separated Results</u>: Since Qwest is no longer rate of return regulated nor is it required to utilize separated financial results for the development of toll, access or EAS rates, it's not clear why this report is required. Qwest suggests that the separated results of Operation be eliminated for companies, such as Qwest, where the information is is no longer required for use in setting rates or determining earnings levels.

<u>Annual 1990's with Rate Case Adjustment</u>: This information is not required under either an Oregon law or rule. At the time Qwest transitioned under price cap regulation, the Staff and the company agreed to replace prior monthly detailed earnings reports with a more simplified annual report and thus began to provide the monthly 1990s and an annual report with Rate Case Adjustments.

Since Qwest has operated under price cap regulation for four years now, this report seems of limited value. The annual report takes approximately 40 hours to create and to update prior rate case adjustments to a current level. This seems of limited value since Qwest will likely never have another rate case. Qwest suggests the routine filing of this report be eliminated. If information is needed by the staff for a specific purpose, the Commission staff has the authority to request it of the company. The company could also easily provide a printed copy of the "1990s" summary report, which is routinely produced for internal purposes, and provide it to the Commission without developing or updating old adjustments from prior rate cases.

<u>Affiliate Interest</u>: This report is provided as part of the Annual Total Company and Total State Financial Results (From O) listed above. Similar to the section above regarding the Form O, since Qwest is no longer rate of return regulated, it's unclear why this information is required by the OPUC. The affiliate transactions were routinely investigated by the Commission in the past to determine if expenditures should be allowed in ratemaking. Since Qwest's rates are no longer regulated in this manner, it is unclear as to what value this information provides the Commission. In fact, Qwest and Staff have agreed to not file affiliate interest contract revisions due to the fact that it is no longer necessary.

If the Commission chose to review the types or level of affiliate transactions, the FCC ARMIS 43-02 report can be accessed through the FCC's website:

<u>www.fcc.gov/wcb/eafs</u>. This report provides total company investments in affiliates, asset transfers, accounts payable to affiliates, and a summary of all transactions to and from each affiliate. The Commission also has the authority to request information and for Qwest to provide the information if needed to review a regulatory issue under its jurisdiction.

Information Required Concerning Financings of Exempt Large Telecommunications Utilities (OAR 860-027-0032): Qwest is exempt under ORS 759.315(5) from requiring "commission authorization to issue stocks and bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness and any security." However, OAR 860-027-0032 (1) and (2) still require Qwest to file specific items of information within 30 and 90 days of issuing securities. Given that Qwest is no longer rate of return regulated, it is not clear why the reporting requirements under 860-027-0032 are relevant for Qwest.

<u>Construction Budget Supporting Detail</u>: Current Commission processes require the reporting of Construction Budget expenditures at a very detailed level. Considerable work effort is required to generate this supporting detail. For example, Qwest's 2004 Construction Budget included over 40 pages of supporting detail including project by project detail of individual projects as small as \$25,000. While Qwest complies with the OPUC's current reporting requirement, the OPUC needs to recognize that while overall construction budget forecasts for the year are generally reasonably accurate, with some adjustments made during the year for demand and economics, the individual projects included within the budget are very fluid and change from month to month. Therefore, Qwest questions the usefulness of the project detail that is currently being provided to the commission and requests the requirement to provide this level of detail be removed.

J.

÷.

c Utility Commission apitol Street NE, Suite 215 ing Address: PO Box 2148 Salem, OR 97308-2148 Consumer Services 1-800-522-2404 Local: 503-378-6600 Administrative Services 503-373-7394



# Oregon Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governo

August 23, 2004

Judy Peppler President-Oregon Qwest 421 SW Oak St. Suite 8S3 Portland OR 97204

Dear Judy:

This letter responds to our mutual goal of streamlining and reducing the number of regulatory reports Qwest must file with the Commission. We have given careful thought to your list of specific requests. While we start from the perspective of eliminating unnecessary or redundant requests, there obviously is information that we need to fulfill our regulatory responsibilities. Our observations and perspectives to your list are outlined below. The Commission remains open to a discussion about how our information needs can be met if you see alternatives that can streamline the process and help gain efficiencies for Qwest.

## Service Quality

<u>Abnormal Condition Reports (ACR)</u>: The current ACR process started with a verbal agreement between staff and Pacific Northwest Bell (PNB). PNB originally agreed that it would report significant outages that could trigger complaints to the Consumer Services Division. Over time, staff found that PNB did not always report outages that led to customer complaints. This led to an agreement that all outages would be reported. We are currently considering modifications to our service quality rules. One possible modification is to formally require all companies to notify staff by e-mail or phone when a major outage occurs. A definition of major outage will need to be developed. Staff will work with the carriers to achieve a mutually satisfactory reporting requirement.

<u>Service Quality Wirecenter Detail:</u> The alternative of reporting trouble reports and repair clearing time in an aggregated form was carefully considered in AR 375, the rulemaking docket that produced our current rules. Our staff continues to believe that data should be reported at the wirecenter level. Aggregated data can mask significant problems in individual wirecenters that are likely to go unnoticed until large numbers of customer complaints are received. A simple example will illustrate this possibility. Assume that Carrier A has five wirecenters and that its average trouble report rate for a given month is 1.99, a seemingly good number. However, the five individual wirecenter trouble report numbers are 0.75, 1.25, 1.5, 2.0, and 4.45. The trouble report number for the fifth wirecenter is a very bad one. A string of bad numbers for this wirecenter could easily escape detection absent reporting on an individual wirecenter basis. We have found the wirecenter reports to be helpful in identifying problems that we can work with the company to resolve before consumer complaints become an issue.

5

Interoffice Blocking: The 1% blockage standard has been an industry standard for decades. The PUC rule only requires reporting for blockage measurements that exceed the 1% threshold. Considering the small number of measurements that Qwest reports each month, the current requirement doesn't seem burdensome. We believe that it is important for the Commission to be aware of blockage problems before complaints are received by PUC Consumer Services so customers can be assured that the problem is being addressed. The agency learned first-hand about the importance of being aware of blockage problems in the late 1990s, when a number of very serious problems occurred. If the only source of information about these problems had been customer complaints, identifying and resolving them would have taken much longer.

#### **Financial**

<u>Budget of Expenditures:</u> We agree that it would be reasonable to eliminate this requirement for Qwest. However, it will take legislation to achieve this goal; ORS 759.100(2) and (3) require the filing and approval of Qwest's budget of expenditures.

<u>Form O—Total Company and Total State Financial Report:</u> We agree that every effort should be made to minimize the requirements of Form O in light of the fact that Qwest is no longer under rate of return regulation. The Commission has already reduced the number of schedules that must be completed by four, and is willing to also stop requiring six schedules related to Qwest's long-term debt and depreciation. Form O information however, is used for purposes other than just rate cases. The information is used for verification of Oregon Universal Service Fund (OUSF) revenues, the Commission's annual survey of competition, certain key contact information, and the Commission's annual statistics book. It also serves as the staff's primary reference source in responding to Commission-requested factual information regarding Qwest. The following is a list of schedules that we believe should continue to be filed as part of Form O:

A-1 General Information
A-2 Important Changes During the Year
A-3 Stockholders
B-1 Balance Sheet
Ob-1 Oregon Rate Base
I-1 Income Statement
Oi-1 Oregon Income Statement
I-2 Full-Time Employees
Oi-2 Full-Time Employees in Oregon
I-3 Compensation of Directors, Officers, and Managers
S-1 Switches and Access Lines in Service
Os-1 Oregon Switches and Access Lines in Service
S-2 Minutes of Use

CP Annual Report for Competitive Provider Operations LEC Annual Report for Local Exchange Carrier Operations Form I—Separated Results: Again, while the information from Form I is no longer needed for rate cases, it is useful in verifying OUSF information and the PUC fee.

<u>Annual 1990's with Rate Case Adjustment:</u> We are willing to eliminate these filings, which are based upon a stipulation in UT 85. It might be necessary to formally end the stipulation.

<u>Affiliate Interest:</u> We think there may be a misunderstanding about this filing. The Form O instructions indicate that Qwest is not required to file AI information because it does not make annual access charge filings.

Information Required Concerning Financings of Exempt Large Telecommunications Utilities (OAR 860-027-0032): Our staff would like to retain the requirements of this rule. The cited rule is closely related to OAR 860-027-0031. Both rules are designed to "prevent impairment of the telecommunications utility's ability to provide telecommunications utility services to its customers in this state." [See ORS 759.315(5)(b)]. From our analysis, it doesn't appear that these filings are onerous. We remain open to discussion if you disagree.

<u>Construction Budget Supporting Detail:</u> This is a statutory requirement. We find the construction budgets useful for monitoring construction activities as they relate to service quality, as well as eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) obligations.

Judy, again, I want to emphasize the Commission remains open to discussion about how we might work together to help the Company achieve greater efficiencies while allowing us to fulfill our oversight responsibilities. I would be happy to discuss this in general or, if you or a member of your staff would like to explore these technical issues in more detail, I would suggest you call Phil Nyegaard directly (503) 378-6436.

hainnan

Orgon Public Utility Commission

#### October 7, 2004

Mr. Phil Nyegaard Administrator, Telecommunications Division Oregon Public Utility Commission 550 Capitol Street NE, P O Box 215 Salem, OR 97301-2551

#### Dear Phil:

Qwest has reviewed Chairman Lee Beyer's August 23 response to our request to reduce the number of regulatory reports required in Oregon. While we appreciate the progress that has been made, there are still areas that we believe warrant further review and discussion. This letter addresses primarily the financial reporting requirements, including budgets, and suggests some further changes that would reduce Qwest's costs of compliance while at the same time providing the OPUC with relevant information. We have provided copies of reports Qwest already produces that provide similar information to the required Oregon reports. We'd like you and your staff to review and consider these alternatives. Then, we'd like to have a meeting to discuss these suggestions. This would allow for a dialogue between the both staffs in order to understand uses and alternative sources that may not have been discussed previously.

Relative to service quality reporting, we anticipate that requirements relative these items will be considered in the proposed service quality rulemaking.

#### Form O

Using the following recommendations for the Balance Sheet and Income Statement will save Qwest approximately two weeks of combined clerical/manager time.

**B-1 and OB-1 Balance Sheet** – Qwest would provide an MR2 report (Balance Sheet), Supplement A (Details of Assets and Liabilities including plant additions and plant retirements), and Supplement B (Tax Timing Details). These standard Qwest reports provide the same information but in some cases are more detailed than the Form O and in some cases consolidated lines on the Form O. MR reports do not show beginning balances, but do show the increase over last year.

I-1 and OI-1 Income Statement – Qwest would provide an MR4 report (Summary of Operating Revenues), MR5 (Operating Expenses), and Supplement A to MR3 (Details of Certain Accounts). As noted above for the Balance Sheet, these standard Qwest reports provide the same information but in some cases are more detailed than the Form O and in some cases consolidated lines on the Form O.

**I-3 Compensation of Directors** – This information would not be included in the Form O, but would be available in the Proxy Statement which would be provided at a later date.

S-2 - MOU - Eliminate lines 4-9 (Sprint and Verizon) so that Qwest does not need to pull data by specific company.

#### <u>Form I</u>

This report should be eliminated. If Staff needs verification of the revenues reported on the OUSF, the ARMIS reports that are available on the FCC website could be used, or Qwest could provide a standard 1990's Detail Report. It takes a Qwest manager approximately one week to prepare the Form I report for QC.

Also, for the Malheur Form I, Qwest proposes to eliminate the requirement to manually adjust all of the data because of the FCC's frozen separations factors. When preparing these reports, Qwest has been calculating new factors and then re-calculating the data using those new factors. It takes approximately two weeks of a manager's time to complete the Malheur report.

#### **Budget of Expenditures**

It appears the OPUC and industry have agreed this report can be eliminated, but that law cannot be changed until next year during the legislative session. Given this situation, should the industry pursue a waiver for this fall's submittal?

Failing a waiver, Qwest would suggest that resources to produce this report could be minimized by:

- 1) Including only Officer Salaries, not benefits. This data is much easier to obtain and would meet the requirement which specifically refers to salary.
- 2) For any amounts that are booked in non-operating accounts (such as lobbying and political contributions), simply state that and eliminate quantifying those amounts that do not impact regulated operations.
- 3) For the affiliate amounts, report a total number instead of by company.

#### **Construction Budget**

Qwest continues to believe the level of detail supplied on this report is beyond information that is useful to the Commission, particularly as it relates to "minor" projects (less than \$100,000). The minor projects reported in a typical year for Qwest represent 75% of the projects reported on the construction budget, but less than 20% of the total construction budget dollars. In addition, there is a tremendous amount of fluidness with these small jobs and they change dramatically from month to month making any single snapshot in time accurate for only a short time period. Elimination of the reporting of minor jobs would reduce Qwest's work effort associated with this task by 60%. Therefore, Qwest requests the minor project category be eliminated and proposes that only projects of \$100,000 or more be listed.

As mentioned previously, we'd like an opportunity to sit down and discuss our proposals and alternatives in a face to face meeting. Please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

\$

## Don Mason

Qwest 421 Southwest Oak Street Suite 810 Portland, Oregon 97204 503-242-7454 503-242-7243 Facsimite e-mail: don.mason@gwest.com

Attachment 1 Page 12 of 15 Jwest Spirit of Service™

Donald K. Mason Regulatory Director - Oregon

Monday, November 29, 2004

Dear Phil,

In our meeting regarding substituting standard Qwest reports for the data required on the Oi-1 Oregon Income Statement, Staff expressed concerns that they needed data from the Oi-1 regarding the OUS revenues collected, revenues received and expenses paid in. Qwest has compared the standard reports (MR4 Operating Revenues and MR5 Operating Expenses) to the Oi-1 and believes that providing the following information to Staff along with the standard reports will provide them with the data needed.

The MR4 report has one line for account 5001 (basic area revenues). Qwest could separately identify the account balances in 5001.821 plus 5001.822 for the Distributions of State USF to match the data provided on the Oi-1.

For the Network Access revenue, the MR4 has single entries for accounts 5081, 5082, 5083 and 5084. Qwest could separately identify the account balances for 5081.8 (Collections of Federal USF), 5084.18 (Collections of State USF), and 5082.18 (Distributions of Federal USF) to match the Oi-1.

The MR5 report separately identifies account 6540.7 USF Contribution. Qwest could separate that account balance between Federal USF and State USF using the subaccounts identified on the Oi-1.

Providing the standard reports plus the additional data identified above will hopefully meet Staff's needs and will save Qwest substantial resources compared to producing the Oi-1 report. Qwest appreciates the Staff's willingness to consider these alternatives.

Please notify me if you agree with the proposal above or have any additional concerns. Details relative to this proposal can be discussed with Joyce McDonald (206-345-1514)

Sincerely,

Don Mason

cc: Joyce McDonald

## Results of November 3, 2004 Meeting with OPUC Staff

#### <u>Form O</u>

The following recommendations for the Balance Sheet and Income Statement will save Qwest approximately two weeks of combined clerical/manager time.

**B-1 and OB-1 Balance Sheet** - OPUC staff has agreed that Qwest can provide the following company standard reports to meet this requirement: MR2 report (Balance Sheet), Supplement A (Details of Assets and Liabilities including plant additions and plant retirements), and Supplement B (Tax Timing Details). This agreement eliminates all of the manual effort that had been required.

I-1 and OI-1 Income Statement – Qwest will provide standard Qwest reports MR4 (Summary of Operating Revenues), MR5 (Operating Expenses), and Supplement A to MR3 (Details of Certain Accounts) to replace the I-1 report. For the OI-1 report, Staff agreed that if Qwest can provide a few additional detail line items to meet their specific concerns, the standard reports would also suffice. Joyce McDonald will provide a sample format to get Staff's approval. Providing the standard reports with the supplemental details will eliminate approximately 90% of the manual effort for this report.

**1-3 Compensation of Directors** – This information would not be included in the Form O, but would be available in the Proxy Statement which would be provided at a later date.

S-2 - MOU - Qwest will explore the availability of Sprint and Verizon information (lines 4-9) on a going forward basis. If the historical data is maintained for 24 months, Staff has agreed that Qwest need not provide this data as part of Form O, but would provide it only upon request by staff.

#### Form I

Staff has agreed this report can be eliminated. Qwest will provide a standard 1990's Detail report instead. This will save approximately one week of preparation time for this QC report.

#### **Budget of Expenditures**

Based on Qwest's initiative relative to this report, the OPUC has agreed this report can be eliminated not only for Qwest, but for <u>all</u> large telecom carriers. This change requires a statutory change which cannot be accomplished until next year during the legislative session. The elimination of this report has been incorporated into a consensus industry/PUC legislative proposal to be worked next year.

#### **Construction Budget**

OPUC Staff has agreed that the requirement to include "minor" projects (less than \$100,000) can be eliminated beginning with the 2005 budget due in December. Minor projects account for 75% of the projects reported on the construction budget, but less than

20% of the total construction budget dollars reported in a typical year. Elimination of the reporting of minor projects reduces Qwest's work effort associated with this task by 60%.

#### Service Quality Reports

OPUC staff has agreed that the monthly service quality reports can now be submitted electronically saving the time and effort of providing paper copies.

#### **Contract Filings**

OPUC Staff and Qwest will continue to look for ways to simplify the special contract (ICB) filing process. One idea that requires legal review is whether the filing of the actual physical contracts can be eliminated if the key pertinent elements of the contract are filed.

Attachment 1 Page 15 of 15

#### Mason, Don

From: NYEGAARD Phil [phil.nyegaard@state.or.us]

Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2004 4:39 PM

To: Mason, Don; NYEGAARD Phil

Cc: McDonald, Joyce; Harris, Sheila; VANLANDUYT Cynthia; LAMBETH Terry

Subject: RE: Regulatory Reports

We accept your proposal. Sorry to be so slow.

-----Original Message-----From: Mason, Don [mailto:Don.Mason@qwest.com] Sent: Monday, November 29, 2004 9:57 AM To: NYEGAARD Phil Cc: McDonald, Joyce; Harris, Sheila Subject: Regulatory Reports

The attached letter is a follow-up to the discussion we had on November 3 relative to financial reports Qwest provides to the Commission.

In addition, Qwest would like to have some follow-up discussion relative to the filing of financing information as required by OAR 860-027-0032. Are you the appropriate contact for this or is Marc Hellman?

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

#### UM 1354

I hereby certify that on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June 2008, I served the foregoing **QWEST CORPORATION'S JOINT TESTIMONY WITH WITNESS QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR DAVID TEITZEL (QWEST), BOB JENKS (CUB), BRYAN CONWAY (PUC) and FRED PETERSON (TRACER); and STIPULATION WITH PRICE PLAN AS EXHIBIT A** in the above entitled docket on the following persons via U.S. Mail, by mailing a correct copy to them in a sealed envelope, with postage prepaid, addressed to them at their regular office address shown below, and deposited in the U.S. post office at Portland, Oregon.

\*Jason Eisdorfer \*Robert Jenks \*Lowrey Brown Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon 610 SW Broadway, Suite 308 Portland, OR 97205 \* paper service waived

William Haas McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, Inc. 1 Martha's Way Hiawatha, IA 52233

\*Jason W. Jones Michael T. Weirich Department of Justice 1162 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301

DATED this 18th day of June, 2008.

Lawrence Reichman Perkins Coie 1120 N.W. Couch Street 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Portland, OR 97209-4128

\*Mark P. Trinchero Davis Wright Tremaine LLP 1300 SW Fifth Avenue Suite 2300 Portland, OR 97201

Brant Wolf Oregon Telecommunications Assn. 777 13<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Suite 120 Salem, OR 97301 \*Arthur A. Butler \*Roger Dunaway Ater Wynne LLP 601 Union Street Suite 1501 Seattle, WA 98101 \* paper service waived

Richard A. Finnnigan Law Office of Richard A. Finnigan 2112 Black Lake Blvd., SW Olympia, WA 98512

James E. Green Verizon Northwest Inc. Suite 150 20575 NW Von Neumann Dr. Beaverton, OR 97006

## **QWEST CORPORATION**

By:

ALEX M. DUARTE, OSB No. 02045 421 SW Oak Street, Suite 810 Portland, OR 97204 Telephone: 503-242-5623 Facsimile: 503-242-8589 e-mail: <u>alex.duarte@gwest.com</u>

Attorney for Qwest Corporation