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March 12, 2004

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Cheryl Walker Administrative Hearings Division Oregon Public Utilities Commission 550 Capitol Street N.E., Suite 215 Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Ms. Walker:

Subject: Docket No. ARB 531

On February 26, 2004, Verizon Northwest Inc. initiated this consolidated arbitration to amend its interconnection agreements with CLECs and CMRS providers, in light of the FCC's changes to its network unbundling rules in its *Triennial Review Order*. Verizon's proposed amendment that is the basis of this arbitration was made available to the CLEC community on October 2, 2003, in accordance with the negotiation and arbitration procedures established in the *TRO* and section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act"). On March 2, 2004, however, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals issued a decision in which it vacated certain provisions of the *Triennial Review Order* and upheld others. The Court has stayed issuance of its mandate for a minimum of 60 days.

Although the D.C. Circuit's ruling may not affect the language of Verizon's amendment, relatively minor revisions to that amendment might be desirable in the wake of the Court's order. If Verizon determines that it will propose any modifications to the amendment, it will file the

revised amendment by Friday, March 19, 2004. Therefore, Verizon proposes that the Commission allow the CLECs to respond to Verizon's Petition for Arbitration within 25 days after March 19 (rather than within the usual 25 days after filing of the Petition).

Respectfully submitted,

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Attached Service List

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on the 12th day of March 2004, I caused copies of the foregoing Petition for Arbitration to be served upon the parties on the attached service list by first-class mail, postage prepaid.

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