

ISSUED: March 18, 2005

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1190

In the Matter of)	
)	
WANTEL INC., dba COMPSPANUSA)	PREHEARING CONFERENCE
)	MEMORANDUM
Application for Oregon Universal Service)	
Support Eligibility and Dialing Parity Plan.)	

On March 17, 2005, Michael Grant, Chief Administrative Law Judge, held a prehearing conference in the matter in Salem, Oregon. The following appearances were entered: Arthur Butler, Marty Patrovsky, and George Smith, on behalf of Wantel Inc. (Wantel), Alex Duarte and Don Mason, on behalf of Qwest Corporation (Qwest), Brant Wolf on behalf of Oregon Telecommunications Association, Doug Cooley, on behalf of CenturyTel, Mitchell More on behalf of Clear Creek Mutual Telephone Company, and Stephanie Andrus, Assistant Attorney General, on behalf of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon Staff (Staff).

Schedule

At the conference, the parties agreed not to set a schedule in UM 1190 at this time. The parties concluded that Wantel must first file a petition seeking status as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) under federal law. Wantel has agreed to file the petition for federal ETC status by March 31, 2005.

The parties further agreed a second prehearing conference should be set, preferably on April 12 or 13, 2005, to set a schedule for the docket opened to investigate the petition for federal ETC status. The parties anticipate an initial schedule in the new docket that assumes contested case procedures. However, once the docket is underway the parties may conclude that the application is sufficiently non-controversial and that the matter can be resolved at a public meeting of the Commission. In that case, the parties will propose a revised schedule.

Assuming a favorable decision by the Commission in the ETC docket, this docket, UM 1190, will be reactivated. The parties also agreed that Wantel would then also file an application for participation in the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP), as an Eligible Telecommunications Provider (ETP).

Staff does not anticipate the review of the request in this docket, UM 1190, or the OTAP filing will require contested case proceedings. Rather, Staff would present a recommendation on both filings to the Commission at a future public meeting

Intervention

Prior to the conference, on February 28, 2005, Qwest filed a petition to intervene in this docket. No party objected to the petition. I find that Qwest has sufficient interest in the proceeding and that its appearance and participation will not unreasonably broaden the issues, burden the record, or unreasonably delay the proceeding. Accordingly, the petition is granted. *See* OAR 860-012-0001.

Dated in Salem, Oregon, this 18th day of March, 2005.

Michael Grant
Chief Administrative Law Judge