

Public Utility Commission

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October 15, 2007

OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION ATTENTION: FILING CENTER PO BOX 2148 SALEM OR 97308-2148

RE: <u>Docket No. UT125 PHASE II</u> - In the Matter of the application of QWEST CORPORATION – Public Access Lines Rates.

Enclosed for electronic filing in the above-captioned docket is the Stipulation between Qwest Corporation, Northwest Public Communications Council and Staff.

/s/ Kay Barnes
Kay Barnes
Regulatory Operations Division
Filing on Behalf of Public Utility Commission Staff
(503) 378-5763
Email: kay.barnes@state.or.us

c: UT 125 Service List - parties

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

UT 125

STIPULATION

Entered into between

Qwest Corporation, Northwest Public

Communications Council and Staff

QWEST CORPORATION
UT 125 Phase II—Public Access Line Rates

OCTOBER 15, 2007

1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION	
2	OF OREGON	
3	UT 125	
4	In the Matter of	
5	the Application of QWEST CORPORATION STIPULATION	
6	for an Increase in Revenues.	
7	This Stipulation is entered into for the purpose of resolving the Oregon Court of Appeals	
8	remand of Commission Order Nos. 01-810 and 02-009. Specifically, this Stipulation concludes	
9	that the rates proposed by Qwest on March 31, 2006, in response to the Court of Appeals	
10	remand, comply with federal requirements.	
11	PARTIES	
12	1. The parties to this Stipulation are the Public Utility Commission of Oregon Staff	
13	(Staff), Qwest Corporation (Qwest), and the Northwest Public Communications Council (NPCC)	
14	(collectively, the "Parties").	
15	BACKGROUND	
16	2. On April 14, 2000, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) entered	
17	Order No. 00-190, adopting a Stipulation between U S WEST Communications, Inc. (now	
18	Qwest Corporation), and Staff in the revenue requirement phase (Phase I) of this docket.	
19	3. On September 14, 2001, the Commission entered Order No. 01-810 establishing a rate	
20	design for the stipulated revenue requirement approved in Order No. 00-190. As part of Order	
21	No. 01-810, the Commission approved revised rates for public assess lines (PAL) and	
22	CustomNet service, adopting the rate recommendations proposed by Qwest and agreed to by	
23	Staff. The Northwest Payphone Association (now, NPCC) opposed the PAL and CustomNet	
24	rates adopted by the Commission, arguing that the rates were not developed in compliance with	
25	Section 276 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.	
26	6 ///	
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1	4. On November 13, 2001, NPCC filed an application for reconsideration of Order No.
2	01-810. On January 8, 2002, the Commission entered Order No. 02-009 denying NPCC's
3	application for reconsideration.
4	NPCC appealed Order Nos. 01-810 and 02-009 ("the rate design orders") to Marion
5	County Circuit Court. On October 1, 2002, the Court entered a judgment affirming the
6	Commission's orders. NPCC thereafter filed an appeal with the Oregon Court of Appeals.
7	5. On November 10, 2004, the Court of Appeals entered a decision reversing and
8	remanding Order Nos. 01-810 and 02-009. The Court determined that the rate design orders
9	were unlawful in that: (1) the Commission's rates for PAL did not comply with certain federal
10	requirements, and (2) the Commission did not adequately consider whether Qwest's proposed
11	rates for CustomNet were subject to the same federal requirements.
12	6. On March 13, 2006, the presiding Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) convened a
13	telephone conference to establish procedures necessary to comply with the Court's remand.
14	During the conference, Qwest indicated that it would file proposed PAL and Fraud Protection
15	(formerly CustomNet) rates to comply with the Court's decision. Qwest also indicated that it
6	would seek to adjust other Qwest rates because of the recalculation of payphone service rates.
17	7. On March 31, 2006, Qwest filed its proposed PAL and Fraud Protection rates ¹ . On
8	April 25, 2006, Qwest filed a letter on behalf of the parties requesting that the Commission
9	decide, as a threshold matter, whether Qwest may raise any customer rates to offset reduced
20	revenues resulting from a Commission decision approving lower PAL and Fraud Protection
21	rates. On September 11, 2006, the Commission entered Order No. 06-515 denying Qwest's
22	proposal to raise residential Caller ID rates to offset a decrease in PAL and Fraud Protection
23	rates resulting from the Court-ordered remand in Docket No. UT 125.
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26	¹ These were the same rates that Qwest submitted in Advice 1935 and that the Commission approved on March 17, 2003.
	mbb

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1	8. As a result of Order No. 06-515, the unresolved issues on remand are whether the	
2	PAL and Fraud Protection rates filed on March 31, 2006, comply with the Oregon Court of	
3	Appeals remand. Specifically, (1) whether Qwest's proposed PAL rates comply with federal	
4	requirements, and (2) whether Qwest's proposed Fraud Protection rates comply with federal	
5	requirements.	
6	9. Since Order No. 06-515 was entered, Staff has performed a cost review of the rates	
7	proposed by Qwest on March 31, 2006. In addition, the Parties have held several settlement	
8	conferences to discuss whether the proposed rates are consistent with the Court of Appeals	
9	remand and federal requirements.	
10	AGREEMENT	
11	10. The Parties agree that Qwest's proposed PAL rates filed on March 31, 2006, comply	
12	with federal requirements. The Parties further agree that the proposed PAL rates, filed on March	
13	31, 2006, satisfy the Court of Appeals Remand Order.	
14	11. The Parties agree that Qwest's proposed Fraud Protection rates filed on March 31,	
15	2006, comply with federal requirements. The Parties further agree that the proposed Fraud	
16	Protection rates, filed on March 31, 2006, satisfy the Court of Appeals Remand Order.	
17	12. The written testimony of Staff, which is attached hereto, will be received in evidence	
18	pursuant to this Stipulation without requiring any Stipulating Party to lay a foundation for its	
19	admission.	
20	13. The Parties agree that this Stipulation represents a compromise in the positions of the	
21	Parties. As such, conduct, statements and documents disclosed in the negotiation of the	
22	Stipulation shall not be admissible as evidence in this or any other proceeding.	
23	14. This Stipulation will be offered into the record of this proceeding as evidence	
24	pursuant to OAR 860-14-0085. The Parties agree to support this Stipulation throughout this	
25	proceeding and any appeal, provide witnesses, if necessary, to sponsor this Stipulation at the	
26		

1	hearing and recommend that the Commission issue an order adopting settlements contained
2	herein.
3	15. The Parties have negotiated this Stipulation as an integrated document. If the
4	Commission rejects all or any material portion of this Stipulation, or imposes additional material
5	conditions in approving this Stipulation, any party disadvantaged by such action shall have the
6	rights provided in OAR 860-14-0085 and shall be entitled to seek reconsideration or appeal of
7	the Commission's Order.
8	16. By entering into this Stipulation, no party shall be deemed to have approved,
9	admitted, or consented to the facts, principles, methods, or theories employed by any other party
10	in arriving at the terms of this Stipulation including those set forth in the written testimony of
11	Staff submitted in support of this Stipulation, other than those specifically identified in the body
12	of this Stipulation. No party shall be deemed to have agreed that any provision of this
13	Stipulation is appropriate for resolving issues in any other proceeding.
14	17. The Stipulation may be executed in counterparts and each signed counterpart shall
15	constitute an original document.
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Department of Justice 1162 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301-4096 (503) 378-6322 / Fax: (503) 378-5300

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1	This Stipulation is entered into by each p	party on the date entered below such party's
2	signature.	
3	QWEST CORPORATION	NORTHWEST PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS
4		COUNCIL (NPCC)
5	Dated:	Dated:
6	By:Print name	By:Print name
7	Print name	Print name
8	Signed:	Signed:
9		
10	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF	
l 1	Dated: 10/10/07	
12	By: Juson Jones	
13	Print name	
14	Signed:	
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1	This Stipulation is entered into by each	party on the date entered below such party's
2	signature.	
3	QWEST CORPORATION	NORTHWEST PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL (NPCC)
45	Dated: 10/0/07	Dated:
6	By: Mex M. Quarte	By:Print name
789	Signed: Print hame of parate	Signed:
10	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF	
f 1	Dated:	
12	By:Print name	
13 14	Signed:	
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1	This Stipulation is entered into by each	party on the date entered below such party's
2	signature.	
3	QWEST CORPORATION	NORTHWEST PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS
4		COUNCIL (NPCC)
5	Dated:	Dated: 10/10/07
6	Ву:	By: BROOK E. HARLOW
7	By:Print name	Print name
8	Signed:	Dated: 10/10/07 By: BROOK E. HIRKOW Print name Signed: Signed:
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10	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF	
11	Dated:	
12	By:Print name	
13	Print name	
14	Signed:	
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

UT 125

I certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all parties of record in this proceeding by delivering a copy in person or by mailing a copy properly addressed with first class postage prepaid, or by electronic mail pursuant to OAR 860-13-0070, to the following parties or attorneys of parties.

Dated at Salem, Oregon, this 15th day of October, 2007.

Jason/Jones

Assistant Attorney General

Of Attorneys for Public Utility Commission's Staff

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