

1 BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

2 DR 26/ UC 600

3 THE NORTHWEST PUBLIC
4 COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL et al.,

5 Complainants,

6 v.

7 QWEST CORPORATION,

8 Respondent.

QWEST CORPORATION'S REPLY
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

1
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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION 1

II. ARGUMENT 4

 A. Qwest Did Not Rely on the Waiver Order..... 4

 1. What does it mean to "rely on" the Waiver Order? 4

 2. The Payphone Orders did not require intrastate tariffs to be filed,
 reviewed, approved, and effective by April 15, 1997..... 6

 3. Qwest did not rely on the Waiver Order..... 13

 4. Qwest has no liability to make a refund to Complainants. 18

 B. The Doctrine of Judicial Estoppel Does Not Apply. 18

 C. Complainants' Claim Is Barred by the Statute of Limitations. 20

 1. The refund period was limited to 45 days so Complainants' claim
 accrued on May 19, 1997 and is completely barred. 20

 2. Complainants' claim did not accrue for the first time in 2007..... 22

 3. Even if the refund period were open-ended, any claim prior to May
 21, 1999 is time-barred. 24

 D. The Commission Has Jurisdiction Over Complainants' Claim. 24

III. CONCLUSION..... 27

1 **TABLE OF AUTHORITIES**

2
3 **Cases**

4 *AT&T Corp. v. Couer d'Alene Tribe*, 295 F.3d 899 (9th Cir. 2002)..... 25

5 *Christ v. Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, L.P., et al*, Case No. TC-2003-0066
6 (Missouri Public Service Commission, Jan. 9, 2003)..... 27

7 *Davel Communications, Inc. v. Qwest Corporation*, 460 F.3d 1075 (9th Cir. 2006)..... 21, 22, 23

8 *Global Crossing Telecommunications, Inc. v. Federal Communications Commission*, 259
9 F.3d 740 (D.C. Cir. 2001)..... 15

10 *Global Crossing Telecommunications, Inc. v. Metrophones Telecommunications, Inc.*,
11 550 U.S. 45 (2007)..... 26

12 *Greene v. Sprint Communications Company*, 340 F.3d 1047 (9th Cir. 2003), *cert. denied*,
13 541 U.S. 988 (2004)..... 25, 26

14 *In the Matter of Ameritech Illinois, U S WEST Communications, Inc. et al. v. MCI*
15 *Telecommunications Corporation*, DA 99-2449, 14 FCC Rcd 18643 (1999)..... 15

16 *In the Matter of Implementation of the Pay Telephone Reclassification and Compensation*
17 *Provisions etc.*, Docket No. 2003-AD-927 (Mississippi Public Service Commission,
18 Sept. 1, 2004)..... 27

19 *In the Matter of Independent Payphone Association of New York, Inc. v. Public Service*
20 *Commission of the State of New York*, 5 A.D.3d 960, 774 N.Y.S.2d 197 (2004) 15, 16, 21

21 *In the Matter of the Application of the Kansas Payphone Association etc.*, Docket No. 02-
22 KAPT-651-GIT (Kansas State Corporation Commission, Dec. 10, 2002) 27

23 *Investigation Into Certain Payphone Issues as Directed in Docket 97-0255*, ICC Docket
24 No. 98-0195, Interim Order (Illinois Commerce Commission, Nov. 12, 2003) 26

25 *New York v. United States*, 505 U.S. 144 (1992)..... 8

26 *Payphone Association of Ohio v. Public Utilities Commission of Ohio et al.*, 109 Ohio
St.3d 453, 849 N.E.2d 4 (2006) 27

Re: Bellsouth Telecommunications, Inc., 2004 WL 2359261 (Florida Public Service
Commission, Oct. 7, 2004) 26

Southern Public Communication Association v. Bellsouth Telecommunications, Inc.,
Docket 29172 (Alabama Public Service Commission, April 13, 2004)..... 26

Sprint Communications v. F.C.C., 76 F.3d 1221 (D.C. Cir. 1996)..... 23

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES
(continued)

1
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

TON Services, Inc. v. Qwest Corporation, 493 F.3d 1225 (10th Cir. 2007) 15

Statutes

47 U.S.C. § 201(b) 26
47 U.S.C. § 206 25, 26
47 U.S.C. § 207 25, 26
47 U.S.C. § 276 25
47 U.S.C. § 415 23

Regulations and Rules

ORCP 21 G(4) 24

1
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

I. INTRODUCTION

Qwest Corporation ("Qwest") respectfully submits this reply memorandum in support of its motion for summary judgment. Complainants' Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Qwest's Motion for Summary Judgment ("Complainants' Memo") does not dispute any of the material facts and is replete with unsupported assertions and mischaracterizations of the FCC orders at issue. Based upon the undisputed, material facts, Qwest is entitled to an order dismissing Complainants' claim as a matter of law.

The central question in this case is whether Qwest "relied on" the extension granted by the Waiver Order¹ such that it has an obligation to make a refund to Complainants. Qwest showed in its Opening Brief that Qwest did not rely on the Waiver Order and, therefore, has no obligation to make any refund to Complainants. Instead of relying on the Waiver Order by filing new or revised PAL tariffs during the 45-day period following April 4, 1997, Qwest based its certification of compliance with the Payphone Orders on its existing tariffs. In their response, Complainants attempt to expand and distort the requirements of the Payphone Orders and, consequently, the scope of the waiver granted by the Waiver Order. From this mistaken premise, Complainants build their argument that Qwest relied on the Waiver Order because it did not timely satisfy one of the purported requirements that Complainants invented.

Complainants repeat over and over again that the Payphone Orders required LECs to have tariffs for basic payphone services (like PAL) that were "filed, **reviewed**, **approved**, and effective" by April 15, 1997 in order to qualify for dial-around compensation ("DAC") for payphones they owned. The fundamental error in the premise of Complainants' argument is that none of the Payphone Orders required that tariffs be "**reviewed**" and "**approved**" by April 15, 1997. Indeed, none of Complainants' citations to the Payphone Orders support these assertions. In fact, the Payphone Orders required only that LECs **file** and have **effective** by April 15, 1997

¹ All terms defined in Qwest's Memorandum in Support of Motion for Summary Judgment (the "Opening Brief") shall have the same meaning in this memorandum.

1 PAL tariffs that the LEC believed satisfy the federal requirements; they did not require that they
2 also be reviewed and approved by state commissions by that date. Complainants also assert that
3 LECs could not qualify for DAC based upon their self-certification of compliance with the
4 Payphone Orders, but instead were required to have state commissions certify such compliance.
5 Complainants are again mistaken. The FCC's orders and court cases establish that the FCC
6 required only that LECs **be able to certify** that their tariffs complied with the federal
7 requirements to start receiving DAC; state approval was not also required.

8 Complainants argue that because the Payphone Orders required that PAL tariffs be filed,
9 **reviewed, approved,** and effective by April 15, 1997, the RBOCs requested the Waiver Order
10 because they did not think that the state commissions could accomplish review and approval by
11 April 15, 1997. In other words, Complainants assert that the RBOCs requested and obtained a
12 waiver of the purported requirement that their PAL tariffs be reviewed and approved as new
13 services test-compliant by April 15, 1997. Complainants then conclude that because Qwest's
14 PAL tariffs were not reviewed and approved by the Commission as new services test-compliant
15 by April 15, 1997, Qwest relied on the Waiver Order when it started collecting DAC as of April
16 15, 1997. Complainants argue that Qwest is liable to make a refund for the period from April 15,
17 1997 through November 15, 2007 because the Commission did not review and approve Qwest's
18 tariffs as new services test-compliant until that latter date.

19 In making this novel argument, Complainants fail even to address the one court case
20 Qwest cited that is precisely on point. Addressing facts identical to those presented in this case,
21 the New York appellate court decided that the RBOC did not rely on the Waiver Order because it
22 did not file any new tariffs during the 45-day period after the RBOCs requested that waiver, so it
23 was not required to make any refund, *even if its tariffs were determined at a later date not to*
24 *comply with the new services test.* This case completely disposes of Complainants' claim, and
25 their failure to respond to the case is astounding.

26

1 Instead of facing up to the defects in their position, Complainants make an irrelevant
2 argument based upon "judicial estoppel." The point of Complainants' judicial estoppel
3 argument is somewhat mysterious. Complainants assert that Qwest made representations in
4 connection with requesting the Waiver Order and that because the FCC granted the waiver
5 requested, Qwest is estopped from taking any position inconsistent with its representations. The
6 only representations Qwest made, however (as part of the RBOC Coalition), are that: it would
7 review its existing tariffs to decide if they meet the federal requirements; if they do, Qwest
8 would base its certification on them; if they do not, Qwest would file new tariffs by May 19,
9 1997, and make a refund if the rates in any such new tariffs were lower than its existing rates.
10 Qwest does not take any inconsistent position in this case, so there is no basis to apply the
11 doctrine of judicial estoppel.

12 Complainants' response to Qwest's argument that their claim is barred by the statute of
13 limitations is based on the same incorrect premise as their argument that Qwest relied on the
14 Waiver Order. It assumes that the refund period was open-ended – extending until the state
15 commission finally approved PAL tariffs as new services test-compliant, which happened in
16 Oregon in 2007 – and that their claim did not accrue until that approval was made. In fact, the
17 refund period was limited to 45 days. Complainants' claim (if they have one) accrued by May
18 19, 1997, and is time-barred by the two-year statute of limitations because they did not file it
19 until May 2001.

20 Finally, Complainants dispute the Commission's jurisdiction to consider Complainants'
21 claim. It does not appear that this issue is before the Commission because no party has moved to
22 dismiss this case on that ground. Nevertheless, Qwest will show that the Commission has
23 jurisdiction to decide Complainants' claim and there is no basis for Complainants' argument that
24 it does not.

1 **II. ARGUMENT**

2 **A. Qwest Did Not Rely on the Waiver Order.**

3 **1. What does it mean to "rely on" the Waiver Order?**

4 The central issue in this case is whether Qwest relied on the extension granted by the
5 Waiver Order such that it may have an obligation to make a refund under the terms of that order.
6 If the answer is "no" – as Qwest believes – then Complainants' claim should be dismissed
7 because "the only remaining claim in the case is the claim for refund under the Waiver Order."
8 Complainants' Memo at 1.² The terms of the Waiver Order, informed by the letter requesting the
9 FCC to issue that order and the preceding Payphone Orders, make clear what it means for an
10 RBOC to "rely on" the Waiver Order. Specifically, a LEC "relied on" the Waiver Order and
11 could be required to make a refund **only** if, during the period between April 4 and May 19, 1997,
12 the LEC (1) determined that it could not base its certification of compliance with the Payphone
13 Orders on its existing, effective tariffs and (2) made a tariff filing that lowered its payphone
14 service rates. Complainants, however, assert that relying on the Waiver Order means something
15 radically different from what the order itself says. Therefore, it is necessary for Qwest to spend
16 some more time explaining what it means for a LEC to rely on the Waiver Order.

17 The Waiver Order must be viewed in the context of the FCC's preceding Payphone
18 Orders because the requirement the FCC waived in the Waiver Order was established in those
19 prior orders. The requirement that the FCC waived – as relevant to this case – is that a LEC have
20 filed and in effect as of April 15, 1997 tariffs for basic payphone services upon which the LEC

21 _____
22 ² Complainants include in their response a discussion of refunds and other issues related to Docket UT 125. *See,*
23 *e.g.,* Complainants' Memo at 6, 12-14. These issues are beyond the scope of this case under Order No. 10-027, so
24 Qwest will not respond to them. Qwest will also not respond to Complainants' unsupported statement that: "It is
beyond dispute that it has already been judicially determined that Qwest had grossly overcharged Complainants
... in violation of federal law, and ... in violation of Oregon State law." Complainants' Memo at 1. Even though
these statements are brazenly false, they have nothing to do with the issues before the Commission.

25 Complainants also submit the Declaration of Charles W. Jones that was filed in U.S. District Court in
26 connection with another motion. Much of this declaration concerns Docket UT 125, CustomNet, and other
irrelevant matters. In addition, any statements by Mr. Jones that characterize the FCC's orders and purported legal
requirements (such as paragraph 16) are inadmissible and should be ignored.

1 could self-certify compliance with the FCC's orders. The waiver that the FCC granted in the
2 Waiver Order was to allow the LECs an additional 45 days (from April 4 through May 19, 1997)
3 to review their existing tariffs to determine whether they could make the self-certification
4 required to begin collecting DAC based on those existing tariffs, or whether they needed to file
5 new tariffs upon which to base that self-certification. If a LEC filed new tariffs within the
6 extension period, it "relied on" the Waiver Order and may be required to make a refund if the
7 new tariff rates were lower than the existing rates. If a LEC did not file new tariffs within that
8 extension period, it did not rely on the Waiver Order and could not be required to make any
9 refund.

10 The fundamental error in Complainants' argument is that they assert that the Payphone
11 Orders required a LEC to have its tariffs for basic payphone services filed, **reviewed and**
12 **approved** by a state commission, and effective by April 15, 1997 in order to be eligible to start
13 collecting DAC. While Complainants' addition of the two words "reviewed" and "approved"
14 may seem minor, it enormously expands the purported requirements of the Payphone Orders and,
15 consequently, distorts and expands the relief that the Waiver Order purportedly provided and the
16 circumstances in which LECs may be liable for a refund. There is no basis whatsoever for
17 Complainants' assertion that the Payphone Orders required LEC tariffs to be reviewed and
18 approved by April 15, 1997. None of the citations Complainants provide support that
19 interpretation. Indeed, the terms of the Payphone Orders, including the Waiver Order, make
20 clear beyond any dispute that the FCC *did not* require state commissions to review and approve
21 the intrastate tariffs by April 15, 1997 (which the FCC could not require in any event).
22 Complainants do not – and cannot – support their assertion. Instead, they seem to think that if
23 they repeat it enough times,³ perhaps the Commission will just believe them.

24
25
26 ³ Complainants assert the purported "approval" requirement no fewer than 12 times in Complainants' Memo.

1 **2. The Payphone Orders did not require intrastate tariffs to be filed, reviewed,**
2 **approved, and effective by April 15, 1997.**

3 Qwest's Opening Brief (at 4-12) discusses each of the Payphone Orders to establish what
4 the FCC required before LECs could receive DAC and which of those requirements the Waiver
5 Order waived. Complainants purport to cite the Payphone Orders in support of their assertions
6 that the FCC required RBOCs to have their intrastate tariffs filed, **reviewed, approved,** and
7 effective by April 15, 1997. To clarify the actual requirements of the Payphone Orders which
8 the Waiver Order waived, Qwest will discuss each of the orders in turn, review the citations
9 Complainants provide, and show that the FCC required intrastate tariffs to be filed and effective,
10 but did not require them to be reviewed and approved as new services test-compliant, by
11 April 15, 1997.

12 **a. The First Payphone Order.**

13 The FCC issued the First Payphone Order on Sept. 20, 1996. With respect to intrastate
14 payphone services, the FCC required LECs to file tariffs with the FCC by January 15, 1997 to be
15 effective by April 15, 1997. (*See* discussion and citations in Qwest's Opening Brief at 5-6.)
16 Complainants describe the purported requirements of the First Payphone Order as follows: "All
17 payphone tariffs had to be filed with the FCC by January 15, 1997 and were to be reviewed,
18 approved and made effective by April 15, 1997. First Payphone Order ¶¶ 146 and 351."
19 Complainants' Memo at 5. A review of the provisions Complainants cite, and those they did not,
20 reveals that the FCC did not contemplate that these tariffs would be "reviewed" and "approved"
21 by April 15, 1997.

22 Paragraph 146 of the First Payphone Order required ILECs to file tariffs for "central
23 office coin services" (*i.e.*, Qwest's "Smart PAL") by January 15, 1997. As such, that paragraph
24 has nothing to do with the tariffs at issue (for Basic PAL). In any event, even if that paragraph
25 did relate to Basic PAL, it requires only that tariffs be filed and effective, not reviewed and
26

1 approved.⁴ The only other part of the First Payphone Order Complainants cite is paragraph 351.
2 That paragraph simply summarizes some of the requirements of the order. Insofar as it discusses
3 any tariff requirements, it says only that LECs had to "file" certain tariffs; it says nothing about
4 such tariffs needing to reviewed and approved by any date.

5 The actual requirements of the First Payphone Order as they pertain to tariffing of
6 intrastate payphone services are set forth succinctly in paragraph 370 of that order: "IT IS
7 FURTHER ORDERED, that local exchange carriers SHALL FILE tariff revisions required by
8 paras. 180 to 187 herein on January 15, 1997 to be effective April 15, 1997." Paragraphs 180 to
9 187 are the ones that include the pricing requirements for PAL service. This order requires only
10 that LECs **file** tariffs to be **effective** by April 15, 1997; it did not require that they also be
11 reviewed and approved by that date.

12 **b. The Reconsideration Order.**

13 In the Reconsideration Order, the FCC determined that tariffs for certain intrastate
14 payphone services, including PAL, should be filed with the state commissions, not the FCC. The
15 FCC did not change any other requirements applicable to such filings. This order is significant
16 because the FCC could not control when a state commission would review and approve these
17 tariffs, nor did the FCC purport to do so.

18 Complainants, once again, mischaracterize the requirements of this order: "It [the FCC]
19 also confirmed its original determination that BOCs such as Qwest could not collect DAC until
20 all their interstate and intrastate payphone tariffs had been reviewed for NST compliance,
21 approved as NST compliant by the FCC or the appropriate State Commission and made
22 effective." Complainants' Memo at 6. Complainants cite paragraph 127 of the First Payphone
23

24 _____
25 ⁴ Commission "approval" of a tariff is not required for it to become "effective." For example, the Commission
26 allowed Qwest's Smart PAL tariff to go into effect, although it did not approve it as new services test-compliant.
See Reichman Decl. ¶4, Ex. 3 at 3. Qwest's Basic PAL tariff was already effective as of January 15, 1997. Duarte
Decl. ¶2, Ex. 1 at 1.

1 Order and paragraphs 131 and 163 of the Reconsideration Order for this point. None of these
2 references support Complainants' assertion.

3 Paragraph 127 of the First Payphone Order contains no requirements whatsoever
4 regarding payphone service rates or tariffs. As for the Reconsideration Order, paragraph 131
5 states: "To receive compensation [*i.e.*, DAC] a LEC must be able to certify the following:
6 . . . (5) it has in effect intrastate tariffs for basic payphone services (for 'dumb' and 'smart'
7 payphones); . . ."⁵ Once again, this paragraph of the Reconsideration Order requires only that a
8 LEC "**be able to certify**" its compliance with the FCC's requirements, in this case to have tariffs
9 that are "in effect."

10 Paragraph 163 of the order (the other paragraph cited by Complainants) confirms the
11 extent of the tariffing requirement: "As required in the Report and Order [*i.e.*, the First
12 Payphone Order], and affirmed herein, all required tariffs, both intrastate and interstate, must be
13 **filed** no later than January 15, 1997 and must be **effective** no later than April 15, 1997."
14 (Emphasis added.) Not only did the FCC *not* require the state commissions to review and
15 approve the intrastate tariffs by April 15, 1997, it expressly recognized that the states might not
16 **ever** be able to review those tariffs: "States unable to review these tariffs may require the LECs
17 operating in their state to file these tariffs with the Commission." *Id.* Thus, once again, the FCC
18 required only that LECs **file** tariffs by January 15, 1997 to be **effective** by April 15, 1997; it did
19 not require (nor could it) that the state commissions also **review and approve** those tariffs by
20 April 15, 1997.

21 Not only did the FCC not require the LECs to obtain state review and approval of their
22 tariffs as new services test-compliant by April 15, 1997, it does not have the power to require the
23 states to review and approve these tariffs at all, as that would violate the Tenth Amendment. *See*
24 *New York v. United States*, 505 U.S. 144, 188 (1992) ("The Federal Government may not compel
25

26 ⁵ None of the five other requirements listed in that sentence have anything to do with tariffs for PAL service.

1 the States to enact or administer a federal regulatory program."). Because of these legal
2 limitations on its own authority, the FCC could not require any particular action by the states.
3 The FCC could authorize the states to review and approve the tariffs but could not, and did not,
4 require the states to review and approve those tariffs, let alone to do so by any specific date.
5 Instead, the only requirements the FCC could, and did, impose were on the LECs themselves: to
6 file tariffs and have them effective by a certain date.

7 **c. The Clarification Order.**

8 The next FCC order Complainants cite as purportedly requiring PAL tariffs to be
9 reviewed and approved as new services test-compliant by April 15, 1997, is the Clarification
10 Order, issued April 4, 1997. Complainants cite this order for the following point: "Other than
11 this exception [relating to the filing of interstate tariffs with the FCC], all other interstate and
12 intrastate Payphone Service tariffs had to be **in fact** NST compliant, **reviewed** for NST
13 compliance, **approved** by the FCC or a State Commission as NST compliant and made effective
14 before Qwest could receive DAC." Complainants' Memo at 8 (emphasis added), citing
15 Reconsideration Order ¶¶ 131-32⁶ and Clarification Order ¶ 21.

16 Paragraph 21 of the Clarification Order relates only to the federal tariff filings the FCC
17 required and has nothing to do with any state tariff filings. Even when it addresses the required
18 federal tariffs, this paragraph required only that they be filed and effective by certain dates, not
19 also reviewed and approved. Thus, this paragraph does not support Complainants' assertion that
20 intrastate tariffs had to be "in fact NST compliant" or "reviewed" and "approved" as new services
21 test-compliant before Qwest could receive DAC.

22 Other paragraphs of the Clarification Order confirm that the FCC did not require that
23 intrastate tariffs be reviewed and approved as new services test-compliant by April 15, 1997.
24 Paragraph 29 of that order reiterates that LECs "must be prepared to certify that they have

25 _____
26 ⁶ Qwest discussed paragraph 131 of the Reconsideration Order above. Paragraph 132 has nothing to do with filing –
let alone review and approval – of tariffs for payphone services.

1 complied with all the requirements of the Payphone Reclassification Proceeding, including those
2 involving intrastate tariffs . . ." Paragraph 33 states: "the question of whether a LEC has
3 **effective** intrastate tariffs is to be considered on a state-by-state basis." (Emphasis added.)
4 Tellingly, fn 93 of that order states: "Any party who believes that a particular LEC's intrastate
5 tariffs fail to meet these requirements has the option of filing a complaint with the Commission."
6 This confirms that the FCC did not require that the state commissions review and approve the
7 tariffs as new services test-compliant before the LEC could receive DAC, because if that had
8 been done there would be no need to seek FCC review of the same question. All the FCC
9 required is that the LEC be prepared to self-certify its compliance, and it invited parties who
10 disagree to file a complaint with the FCC to have the tariffs reviewed for actual compliance.

11 **d. The Waiver Order.**

12 Finally, and perhaps most critically, an examination of the Waiver Order itself, and the
13 RBOCs' request for the FCC to issue that order, establishes that LECs were not required to have
14 their intrastate tariffs reviewed and approved by the state commissions for new services test
15 compliance before they could qualify for DAC, and that this is not the "requirement" that the
16 FCC waived in the Waiver Order.

17 Complainants state that the letter requesting the Waiver Order "requested a waiver of the
18 requirement that previously filed intrastate tariffs . . . be found by State Commissions to be NST
19 compliant by April 15, 1997." Complainants' Memo at 8. Complainants do not cite the language
20 they purport to rely on, and it is clear that the letter does not request such a waiver because no
21 such requirement existed. As discussed in detail in Qwest's Opening Brief at 9-12, the RBOC
22 Coalition requested an extension of time for RBOCs to file intrastate tariffs that they believed
23 complied with the new services test. The RBOCs stated that **they** would review their existing
24 tariffs in light of cost data and either (1) be able to certify that the existing tariffs satisfy the new
25 services test or (2) file new tariffs by May 19, 1997 that they believe comply with the new
26

1 services test. In the second case, and only in the second case, the RBOCs agreed voluntarily to
2 make refunds to the extent any newly tariffed rates were lower than the existing rates. Thus, the
3 refund the RBOCs agreed to make, and the FCC ordered, is required only where (1) an RBOC
4 decided that its existing tariffs did not satisfy the new services test, (2) the RBOC filed new
5 tariffs within the 45-day extension period, and (3) the newly tariffed rates were lower than the
6 existing rates. If an RBOC decided to based its certification on existing rates and did not file any
7 new rates pursuant to the waiver, it did not rely on the Waiver Order and is not required to make
8 any refund. This is clear from the April 10, 1997 letter requesting the Waiver Order and a
9 clarification filed on April 11, 1997, which states in part:

10 The waiver will allow LECs 45 days (from the April 4 Order) to
11 gather the relevant cost information and either be prepared to
12 certify that the existing tariffs satisfy the costing standards of the
13 "new services" test *or to file new or revised tariffs* that do satisfy
14 those standards. Furthermore, as noted, *where new or revised
tariffs are required* and the new rates are lower than the existing
ones, we will undertake (consistent with state requirements) to
reimburse or provide a credit back to April 15, 1997, to those
purchasing the services under the existing tariffs.

15 Reichman Decl. ¶ 3, Ex. 2 at 1 (emphasis added). Indeed, the RBOCs expected that in "most
16 states," the RBOC would be able to certify that its existing tariffs met the new services test and
17 would not need to file any new or revised tariffs. Reichman Decl. ¶ 2, Ex. 1 at 1.

18 The letters and the Waiver Order also confirm that neither the RBOCs, in requesting the
19 waiver, nor the FCC, in granting it, expected that the state commissions would have time to
20 review and approve the tariffs as new services test-compliant by May 19, 1997. The RBOCs told
21 the FCC:

22 [T]here is of course no guarantee that the States will act within 15
23 days on these new tariff filings, particularly where rates are being
24 increased pursuant to federal guidelines. Provided, however, that
25 we undertake and follow-through on our commitment to ensure
26 that existing tariff rates comply with the "new services" test and, in
those States and for those services where the tariff rates do not
comply, to file new tariff rates that will comply, we believe that we
should be eligible for per call compensation starting on April 15th.

1 *Id.* at 2. This shows, once again, that compliance with the Payphone Orders required only that
2 the LECs have effective tariffs that *they* believed complied with the new services test and other
3 FCC requirements; self-certification, and not final state approval of compliance, was what the
4 FCC required before LECs could begin to collect DAC.

5 Complainants cite paragraph 12 of the Waiver Order for the proposition that: "The
6 Waiver Order made clear that in the absence of the Waiver Order, if a LEC's intrastate payphone
7 tariffs had not been **reviewed** for compliance with requirements for NST compliance and
8 **approved** as NST compliant and made effective by April 15, 1997 in a state, DAC could not be
9 collected in that state." Complainants' Memo at 10. Complainants are, once again, wrong.
10 Paragraph 12 refers only to the requirement that tariffs be "effective" or "in effect;" it does not
11 refer to any requirement that a state commission also have reviewed and approved the tariffs as
12 new services test-compliant by April 15, 1997.

13 The Waiver Order granted all LECs an extension through May 19, 1997 "to file intrastate
14 tariffs consistent with the 'new services test' . . ." Waiver Order, ¶ 2. The FCC noted the
15 RBOCs' representation that in most states, the RBOCs could certify compliance with the FCC's
16 requirements based on their existing tariffs, but in some states it may be necessary for them to
17 file new tariffs. *Id.*, ¶ 14. Only those RBOCs who "rely on" the waiver granted in the order
18 would be required to make refunds, and only for the limited 45-day period. *Id.*, ¶¶ 23, 25.

19 In responding to the RBOCs' request, AT&T asked the FCC to rule "that a LEC is not
20 eligible for payphone compensation 'until it has provided proof of state action verifying the
21 LEC's compliance with Section 276.'" *Id.*, ¶ 16. The FCC rejected AT&T's request, stating that
22 it had only required LECs to "be able to certify" their compliance with the FCC's requirements.
23 *Id.*, ¶ 22. The FCC did not require the state commissions to review and approve these tariffs by
24 any particular date, but only said that the states should act on those tariffs "within a reasonable
25 period of time." *Id.*, n.60.

1 **3. Qwest did not rely on the Waiver Order.**

2 In its Opening Brief at 17-22, Qwest showed that it did not "rely on" the Waiver Order
3 because it based its self-certification of compliance with the FCC's requirements on its existing
4 tariffs and did not file any new tariffs during the 45-day period following April 4, 1997 in
5 reliance on the Waiver Order. Qwest's showing was based on a discussion of the FCC's
6 Payphone Orders including the Waiver Order, that showed precisely what the FCC had required
7 and what it meant for a LEC to "rely on" the Waiver Order, and Qwest's tariff filings and self-
8 certification of compliance. Qwest also supported its argument with the **only** court case
9 precisely on point, from an appellate court in New York, holding that the LEC in that case did
10 not rely on the Waiver Order because it did not make any further tariff filings after April 4, 1997,
11 and based its certification of compliance with the FCC's requirements on its existing tariffs, just
12 as Qwest did.

13 Complainants' response to this argument is set forth on exactly one page, and the
14 seriousness with which Complainants treat this argument is summarized in the first sentence:
15 "Qwest's claim that the [sic] 'did not rely' on the Waiver Order borders on the ludicrous."
16 Complainants' Memo at 21-22. Complainants then repeat their mischaracterizations of the
17 requirements of the Payphone Orders upon which premise they base their argument that Qwest
18 relied on the Waiver Order. Specifically, Complainants state:

19 Qwest could not receive DAC in a state where intrastate payphone
20 tariffs had not been reviewed for NST compliance, approved as
21 NST compliant and made effective by a State Commission. Under
22 the First Payphone and Reconsideration Orders, Qwest could not
23 qualify for DAC by self-certifying that it had NST compliant rates.
24 Only review and approval of NST compliance by the FCC or the
25 PUC by April 15, 1997 could qualify Qwest to receive DAC
26 beginning April 15, 1997 under those orders.

27 Complainants' Memo at 21. Complainants provide no citations for any of these statements and,
28 as discussed above, the citations they provided for similar points earlier in their brief do not
29 support these statements.

1 The premise of Complainants' opposition to Qwest's motion on this central issue of
2 whether Qwest relied on the Waiver Order is that the Payphone Orders required Qwest to have
3 its intrastate tariffs for PAL service not only filed and effective, but also reviewed and approved
4 by April 15, 1997, in order to receive DAC. Complainants then imply that the Waiver Order
5 waived the requirement that LECs have their intrastate tariffs reviewed and approved by
6 April 15, 1997, and concludes that because the Commission did not review and finally approve
7 Qwest's tariffs until November 15, 2007, Qwest must have relied on the Waiver Order. As
8 explained above, the premise of Complainants' argument is wrong. The Payphone Orders
9 required LECs only to file certain tariffs and to have them effective by April 15, 1997; they did
10 not require the state commission to review and approve the tariffs by that date.

11 The Waiver Order did not waive any requirement that tariffs be reviewed and approved
12 for new services test compliance by April 15, 1997, because there was no such requirement. It
13 waived only the requirement that tariffs upon which LECs could base their certification of
14 compliance be filed and effective by April 15, 1997, and waived that for only 45 days.
15 Moreover, and most importantly, the Waiver Order required refunds to be made only by LECs
16 who decided they could not base their certification on tariffs filed before April 4, 1997 and who
17 filed tariffs within 45 days following that date upon which they certified their compliance with
18 the Payphone Orders. Qwest did not rely on the Waiver Order because it based its certification
19 of compliance for Oregon on its existing, effective tariffs and not on new or revised tariffs filed
20 after April 4, 1997.

21 Complainants are also wrong when they say that LECs could not qualify for DAC based
22 on their self-certification. In fact, self-certification, and not state or FCC approval, is all the FCC
23 required to trigger IXCs' obligation to pay DAC. That is clear from the language of the different
24 Payphone Orders discussed above. It is also clear from an FCC order in which an IXC
25 challenged Qwest's self-certification, discussed in Qwest's Opening Brief at 14-15. In *In the*

1 *Matter of Ameritech Illinois, U S WEST Communications, Inc. et al. v. MCI Telecommunications*
2 *Corporation*, DA 99-2449, 14 FCC Rcd 18643 (1999), the FCC ruled that IXCs are obligated to
3 pay DAC after receiving the LEC's certification of compliance; no further approvals were
4 required. *See also Global Crossing Telecommunications, Inc. v. Federal Communications*
5 *Commission*, 259 F.3d 740, 747 (D.C. Cir. 2001) (to be eligible for DAC, LEC is required only
6 to be able to certify its compliance; it is not required to prove compliance or to obtain
7 certification of compliance from states or FCC). Moreover, in *TON Services, Inc. v. Qwest*
8 *Corporation*, 493 F.3d 1225, 1229-33 (10th Cir. 2007) , the Tenth Circuit discussed "the
9 relatively easy process of LEC 'certification' for the purposes of receiving per-call compensation
10 [*i.e.*, DAC]" Thus, it is clear that the FCC required that LECs only be able to **self-certify**
11 compliance with the Payphone Orders to receive DAC and did not require that the state
12 commissions also finally approve such tariffs as complying with the new services test. For this
13 reason, the Waiver Order did not waive any such review and approval requirements, because
14 they did not exist, and Qwest did not rely on the Waiver Order simply because this Commission
15 did not finally review and approve Qwest's PAL tariffs as complying with the new services test
16 until 2007.

17 In contrast to Complainants' unsupported arguments, Qwest's argument that it did not rely
18 on the Waiver Order is directly supported by the only court case Qwest could find that considers
19 the question, discussed in Qwest's Opening Brief at 19-21. In *In the Matter of Independent*
20 *Payphone Association of New York, Inc. v. Public Service Commission of the State of New York*,
21 5 A.D.3d 960, 774 N.Y.S.2d 197 (2004), the court decided that Verizon was not required to
22 refund portions of PAL rates because Verizon did not rely upon the Waiver Order, ***even if the***
23 ***rates Verizon relied upon in 1997 to comply with the FCC's Payphone Orders were later***
24 ***determined not to comply with the new services test.*** To comply with the FCC's Payphone
25 Orders, Verizon filed with the New York PSC new rates for its "smart" payphone lines on
26

1 January 15, 1997, to become effective on April 15, 1997, just as Qwest did in Oregon. Also like
2 Qwest, Verizon left unchanged its rates for basic PALs. Like Qwest, Verizon did not file any
3 new tariffs by May 19, 1997, but continued to rely upon its pre-existing basic PAL rates to
4 comply with the Payphone Orders.

5 Even though the courts thought that Verizon's rates as of April 15, 1997 may not have
6 complied with the new services test, the appellate court decided that Verizon had no obligation to
7 make a refund under the Waiver Order because Verizon did not rely on that order by filing new
8 tariffs after April 4, 1997 but, instead, relied on its existing tariffs to certify compliance with the
9 Payphone Orders:

10 We differ with Supreme Court, however, with regard to its
11 conclusion that petitioners will be entitled to a refund or credit in
12 the event that the PSC concludes that new rates be established in
13 accordance with the new services test and such rates prove to be
14 lower than those presently in existence. The basis for Supreme
15 Court's conclusion was a letter from representatives of Verizon's
16 predecessor requesting an extension of time in which to review
17 existing rates and file new rates if it were determined that the
18 existing rates were not compliant with the new services test,
19 proposing an agreement to refund or provide a credit to PSPs for
20 the difference if the newly filed rates were lower than existing
21 rates and requesting an order of the Federal Communications
22 Commission granting a 45-day extension for filing new rates and
23 ordering a refund in the event such new rates were indeed lower
24 than existing rates. ***Suffice to say that new rates were not filed
25 and the refund order was thus never effective.*** The fact that the
26 PSC's prior approval of the preexisting rates has now been
judicially called into question and the matter has been remanded
for further consideration cannot be the basis of potential refunds
that were only agreed to and contemplated for a period ending
May 19, 1997.

21 5 A.D.3d at 963-64 (emphasis added). This is still the only case Qwest could find in which the
22 applicability of the Waiver Order to a refund claim was litigated. Not only does this case
23 establish that Qwest, like Verizon, did not rely on the Waiver Order, it also holds that the refund
24 period was limited, not open-ended as Complainants argue, and ended on May 17, 1997.

1 The facts of the instant case are indistinguishable from those in the Verizon-New York
2 case. Qwest filed new Smart PAL rates in Oregon on January 15, 1997, and relied upon its
3 existing basic PAL rates to satisfy the federal requirements. While Qwest also had the option to
4 benefit from the Waiver Order, Qwest did not rely upon the Waiver Order because it did not file
5 any new payphone tariffs by May 19, 1997. And even though a court remanded Qwest's existing
6 PAL rates to the Commission for application of the new services test, and Qwest lowered those
7 rates in 2003, no refund is available because Qwest did not rely upon the Waiver Order.

8 As discussed above, Complainants' Memo is remarkable for the many misstatements and
9 unsupported propositions it contains. What is even more astounding, however, is the fact that
10 Complainants never mention the New York case. They do not try to distinguish it (which they
11 cannot do) nor do they even argue that the Commission should not follow it because it is not
12 binding on this Commission. **They simply ignore it!** The New York case is compelling
13 because it rationally considers whether the LEC "relied on" the Waiver Order based on facts that
14 are identical to this case. Moreover, it was decided by an appellate court, and is the only court
15 case on point. The Commission should follow this decision and decide that Qwest did not rely
16 on the Waiver Order and has no obligation to make any refund to Complainants.

17 Complainants also casually state that Qwest "admitted" reliance on the Waiver Order in
18 its May 20, 1997 letter to IXCs certifying compliance with the Payphone Orders for 13 states,
19 although they do not cite the language they rely upon. Complainants' Memo at 22. Presumably,
20 Complainants are referring to the following sentence in that letter: "Pursuant to the
21 Commission's limited waiver of the 'new services' test granted in its Order of April 15, 1997 (DA
22 97-805), U S WEST has filed any rate changes required in the existing intrastate tariffs for
23 unbundled functionalities to achieve compliance with the 'new services' test." Reichman Decl.
24 ¶ 7, Ex. 5 at 2. The "unbundled functionalities" referenced in that sentence are different from the
25 basic payphone services (*e.g.*, PAL) that are the subject of the claim in this case. Moreover,
26

1 neither that sentence, referring to "any" rate changes, nor anything else in that letter shows that
2 Qwest filed new PAL tariffs in Oregon during the period from April 4 to May 19, 1997.⁷ If
3 Qwest really had admitted reliance on the Waiver Order with respect to Oregon, Complainants
4 likely would have more of that in their response.

5 **4. Qwest has no liability to make a refund to Complainants.**

6 The simple, dispositive facts of this case are that Qwest did not "rely on" the Waiver
7 Order because it did not make any payphone service tariff filings between April 4 and May 19,
8 1997. Instead, Qwest relied on its previously filed and effective PAL tariffs to comply with the
9 FCC's Payphone Orders. It is undisputed that Qwest based its certification for Oregon on its
10 existing tariffs for Basic PAL and the tariff for Smart PAL it filed on January 15, 1997, and that
11 Qwest did not file any other intrastate payphone service tariffs in Oregon between January 15,
12 1997 and May 19, 1997. *See, e.g.,* Duarte Decl. ¶ 4. For this reason, Qwest has no obligation to
13 make any refund to Complainants and their Complaint should be dismissed.

14 **B. The Doctrine of Judicial Estoppel Does Not Apply.**

15 Complainants assert that Qwest is somehow judicially estopped from arguing that it is not
16 obligated to make any refund to Complainants because of the representations it made as part of
17 the RBOC Coalition in requesting the Waiver Order. Complainants' Memo at 17-21. The
18 doctrine of judicial estoppel may apply where a party successfully asserts a position in one case,
19 and then tries to assert a different position in a later case. The fundamental flaws in
20 Complainants' argument, however, are that Complainants (1) mischaracterize the position Qwest
21 allegedly asserted in the prior proceeding and (2) fail to identify any difference in the position
22 that the RBOC Coalition actually asserted in requesting the Waiver Order and the position Qwest
23 is asserting in this case.

24
25 _____
26 ⁷ Qwest did make a filing in Montana on May 16, 1997, to increase the rate of the Basic PAL. Reichman Decl. ¶ 7,
Ex. 5 at 14 (*see note* "#").

1 Complainants identify two representations that Qwest allegedly made to the FCC in
2 requesting the Waiver Order:

3 To assure the FCC and the representatives of the independent PSPs
4 that they would operate on the basis of NST compliant payphone
5 tariffs notwithstanding the waiver, they undertook to review all the
6 previously filed intrastate payphone tariffs for NST compliance,
7 and, where they found those tariffs not to be NST compliant, they
8 would file new tariffs that were compliant. . . . The effect of this
9 statement was a representation by the RBOCs that if no new tariff
10 was filed, **the previously filed tariffs had been determined to be
11 NST compliant.** Equally inherent in the representation is the
12 commitment that **if the rates represented to be compliant were
13 found not to be compliant, the RBOCs would refund the
14 overcharge.**

15 Complainants' Memo at 19 (citation omitted)(emphasis added).

16 It is unclear whether Complainants contend that the first alleged representation – "that if
17 no new tariff was filed, the previously filed tariffs had been determined to be NST compliant" –
18 refers to a "determination" by a state commission or by Qwest itself. If Complainants mean to
19 say that the RBOCs represented that *a state commission* had determined the previously-filed
20 rates to be new services test-compliant, such a representation cannot be implied from the
21 RBOCs' letter. That letter simply states that the RBOCs would review the cost data and "be
22 prepared to certify" compliance. Complainants' argument, again, rests on its unsupported
23 assertion that the FCC had required the LEC rates to have been reviewed and approved by a state
24 commission as new services test-compliant before they could receive DAC, and that this is the
25 requirement the FCC waived. As discussed in detail above, that is not what the FCC had
26 required, so it is impossible to infer this representation from the letter. On the other hand, if
Complainants simply mean that the RBOCs represented that *they* had reviewed their tariffs and
found them compliant, that is entirely *consistent* with the position Qwest is taking in this case.

The second alleged representation – "the commitment that if the rates represented to be
compliant were found not to be compliant, the RBOCs would refund the overcharge" – also
cannot reasonably be inferred from the RBOCs' letter. The RBOCs carefully described the

1 circumstances in which they agreed – in fact, volunteered – to make a refund, and the FCC
2 adopted that offer. The RBOCs did not commit to refund charges if the rates they believed to be
3 new services test-compliant were *ever* determined not to be so, as Complainants incorrectly
4 assert.

5 Complainants' point seems to be that Qwest, as part of the RBOC Coalition, offered to
6 make a refund and cannot now deny that it made such an offer. In fact, the RBOC Coalition
7 offered to make a refund under specific, limited circumstances. Qwest does not take any
8 position in this case that is inconsistent with the position it asserted before the FCC in 1997.
9 Qwest simply denies that the circumstances in which it offered to make a refund have come into
10 existence. The question in this case is whether the circumstances in which Qwest offered to
11 make a refund in 1997 have come into existence or not. This cannot be resolved by a simplistic
12 application of the doctrine of judicial estoppel, especially based upon the tortured and
13 manufactured representations that Complainants assert.

14 **C. Complainants' Claim Is Barred by the Statute of Limitations.**

15 **1. The refund period was limited to 45 days so Complainants' claim accrued on**
16 **May 19, 1997 and is completely barred.**

17 As Qwest showed in its Opening Brief, the refund period was limited to 45 days
18 following April 4, 1997, and any claim Complainants may have had for a refund accrued no later
19 than May 19, 1997 (assuming Qwest relied on the Waiver Order and was obligated to make a
20 refund, which Qwest strongly denies). Opening Brief at 25-26. Any such refund claim is subject
21 to a two-year statute of limitations and had to be brought by May 19, 1999, or face a time-bar.
22 Complainants' Complaint, filed on May 21, 2001, is completely time-barred. In response,
23 Complainants argue that the refund period was open-ended and that their claim did not accrue
24 until November 2007 (even though they filed it in 2001).

25 Complainants' argument that the refund period was open-ended is, once again, based on
26 their mischaracterization of the requirements of the Payphone Orders and the effect of the

1 Waiver Order. Complainants assert: "The whole purpose of requesting the Waiver Order was
2 because they did not believe State Commissions could act within the 60 day period allowed in
3 the Clarification Order for the FCC to Act [sic]. . . ." Complainants' Memo at 22-23. Again,
4 Complainants' argument is based on the premise that the Payphone Orders required LECs to
5 have intrastate tariffs reviewed and approved by the state commissions by April 15, 1997, and
6 that is the requirement the Waiver Order waived. As shown above, that was not the case. The
7 45-day waiver was only to allow the LECs time to review their existing tariffs and, where
8 necessary in their opinion, to file revised or new tariffs. It was not intended to provide the state
9 commissions time also to review and approve such tariffs. The refund period corresponds to the
10 purpose of the refund: it was triggered only if a LEC filed new tariffs within the 45 days after
11 April 4, 1997, and ended once any such newly-filed tariffs were *effective*. It does not last until a
12 state commission finally determines that a LEC's tariffs comply with the new services test,
13 because that is not a requirement that the FCC waived.

14 The FCC itself described the waiver period as "limited." Waiver Order ¶ 2. Likewise,
15 the Ninth Circuit has described it as "limited" and of "brief duration." *Davel Communications,*
16 *Inc. v. Qwest Corporation*, 460 F.3d 1075, 1083 (9th Cir. 2006). In addition, the New York
17 appellate court held that the "potential refunds" authorized by the Waiver Order "were only
18 agreed to and contemplated for a period ending May 19, 1997." 5 A.D.3d at 964. Complainants
19 cite no authority to support their argument that the refund period was open-ended.

20 Complainants also assert that the FCC had no authority to waive the purported
21 requirement that LECs have new services test-compliant rates beginning April 15, 1997, because
22 "[a]ny charges in excess of those rates is [sic] a violation of Sections 276, 201 and 202 of the
23 Act." Complainants' Memo at 23. Once again, Complainants are wrong. The requirement that
24 payphone service rates comply with the new services test was imposed by the FCC in
25 implementing Section 276, not by Congress. 460 F.3d at 1081. Thus, the FCC was acting fully
26

1 within its power when it issued the Waiver Order. If the FCC was not acting within its authority,
2 then the refund provisions of the Waiver Order would also be unenforceable and Complainants
3 would have no claim to bring.

4 Because the refund period was limited to 45 days and was based on the difference
5 between the newly-effective and existing tariffs, Qwest would have been obligated to make a
6 refund (if at all) as of May 19, 1997, and the amount of the refund could have been calculated at
7 that time. In these circumstances, any refund claim accrued in 1997 and had to be brought by
8 1999. This claim, brought in 2001, is time-barred.

9 **2. Complainants' claim did not accrue for the first time in 2007.**

10 Complainants argue that their claim did not accrue until November 2007, when the
11 Commission approved Qwest's rates filed in 2003. According to Complainants, "under the
12 Waiver Order no refund is due until the final rate has been established and is shown to be lower
13 than the interim rate." Complainants' Memo at 23. This is not what the Waiver Order provides.
14 Moreover, this argument is based on an incorrect reading of the Waiver Order. The only refund
15 authorized by the Waiver Order – which is the only Payphone Order authorizing a refund of any
16 sort – is for the difference between the effective rates as of April 15, 1997 and the effective rates
17 as of May 19, 1997 for a LEC who chose to file new rates during that period. Both Qwest's
18 liability to make a refund and the amount of any refund could have been claimed as of May 19,
19 1997. The refund was *not* to be based on the difference between the rate a LEC charged as of
20 April 15, 1997 and the rate that the Commission finally approved at some later date, even as late
21 as 2007. Thus, there is no significance to the fact that the Commission approved Qwest's PAL
22 tariffs in November 2007 in determining when Complainants' refund claim accrued.

23 In *Davel*, the Ninth Circuit decided that the refund claim at issue accrued in 1997. *See*
24 Qwest's Opening Brief at 22-25. Complainants grossly misrepresent the holding of *Davel* when
25 they state:

1 Until a final rate is determined, you cannot have a claim for the
2 overcharge because the standard for comparison is not known.
3 This is precisely what the court in *Davel, supra*, ruled when it
4 found that the claim for refund under the Waiver Order with
5 respect to PAL rates was not time barred because the claim did not
6 arise until the NST compliant tariffs were in place. *Davel, supra*.

7 Complainants' Memo at 25. The *Davel* court was asked to dismiss only the plaintiffs' claim for
8 refunds for CustomNet service as time-barred (which it did, deciding that the claim first accrued
9 in 1997); it was not asked to dismiss the claim for refund of PAL rates as time-barred. Thus, the
10 Ninth Circuit did not decide "that the claim for refund under the Waiver Order with respect to
11 PAL rates was not time barred" as Complainants assert, nor did it make any decision as to when
12 such a claim accrued. What Complainants are referring to is what the Ninth Circuit described as
13 "Davel's construction of the Waiver Order," not the Ninth Circuit's holding. 460 F.3d at 1092.

14 Moreover, Complainants' argument that their claim did not accrue until 2007 is
15 completely belied by the fact that Complainants filed this claim in May 2001, armed with what
16 Complainants described as "powerful evidence that Qwest's past and current PAL rates have
17 never been set in accordance with the new services test as required by the *Waiver Order*."
18 Complaint ¶ 13. Even though they filed the Complaint in 2001, Complainants now assert that
19 they needed to wait until the Commission finally established new services test-compliant rates in
20 2007 before they could *know* whether or not Qwest's rates complied with the new services test.
21 Accrual of a claim does not wait until every item of a claim has been finally established in some
22 other proceeding. Rather, it depends upon a party's being on notice that it may have been
23 injured. For purposes of applying the two-year statute of limitations in 47 U.S.C. § 415, a claim
24 accrues "when the injured party discovers – or in the exercise of due diligence should have
25 discovered – that it has been injured." *Sprint Communications v. F.C.C.*, 76 F.3d 1221, 1227-31
26 (D.C. Cir. 1996). "Accrual does not wait until the injured party has access to or constructive
27 knowledge of all the facts required to support its claim. . . . Nor is accrual deferred until the
28 injured party has enough information to calculate its damages." *Id.* at 1228. Complainants did

1 not have to wait until 2007 to assert their claim, *nor did they*. Complainants' claim accrued in
2 1997, not in 2007.

3 Complainants also argue somewhat elliptically that the statute of limitations was tolled
4 because "[i]n September 2000, Qwest admitted the PAL rates were illegally high and agreed to
5 temporary bill credits to effectively reduce those rates going forward." Complainants' Memo at
6 28. Not surprisingly, Complainants cite nothing to support that assertion, because it is false.
7 Qwest never admitted that its PAL rates were "illegally high." The orders in Docket UT 125
8 make clear the basis for the temporary bill credits Complainants refer to and they had nothing to
9 do with any admission or even suggestion that PAL rates were too high. In any event, tolling the
10 two-year statute of limitations starting in September 2000 for a claim that accrued by May 1997
11 does nothing to preserve Complainants' claim, which expired in 1999.

12 **3. Even if the refund period were open-ended, any claim prior to May 21, 1999**
13 **is time-barred.**

14 Qwest argued in the alternative that, at the minimum, Complainants may not recover
15 refunds for any period before May 21, 1999 (two years before they filed the Complaint).
16 Opening Brief at 26-27. Complainants do not respond to this argument. While Qwest thinks that
17 the Commission should dismiss the Complaint in its entirety, at the minimum the Commission
18 should decide that Complainants may not recover refunds for any period prior to May 21, 1999,
19 based on application of the two-year statute of limitations.

20 **D. The Commission Has Jurisdiction Over Complainants' Claim.**

21 Finally, Complainants respond to Qwest's motion for summary judgment by arguing that
22 the Commission does not have subject-matter jurisdiction to decide Complainants' claim.
23 Complainants' Memo at 15-17. Complainants assert that the Commission's jurisdiction to
24 address the claim is a "threshold matter" that "must be determined." *Id.* at 2. While it is the case
25 that a court (and presumably the Commission) may always consider whether it has jurisdiction to
26 resolve a particular matter, such issues are typically raised by a motion. *See* ORCP 21 G(4).

1 Qwest has not challenged the Commission's jurisdiction to decide this case. Complainants
2 invoked the Commission's jurisdiction when they filed the Complaint, and they have not
3 voluntarily dismissed the Complaint or filed any motion asking the Commission to decide
4 whether it has jurisdiction. Thus, it does not appear that this matter is properly before the
5 Commission. Nevertheless, Qwest will respond and explain why the Commission does have
6 jurisdiction over the case.

7 Complainants argue that 47 U.S.C. § 207 vests exclusive jurisdiction in the federal courts
8 and the FCC to decide claims under the federal telecommunications statutes, and imply that this
9 is such a claim. Complainants' Memo at 15. Complainants cite *AT&T Corp. v. Couer d'Alene*
10 *Tribe*, 295 F.3d 899 (9th Cir. 2002), for the proposition that no other tribunal has jurisdiction to
11 decide a claim under the Act. The flaw in Complainants' argument is that their claim is not made
12 under the Act, but is made to an enforce an FCC order, and Section 207 does not vest exclusive
13 jurisdiction in the federal courts and the FCC to decide such claims.

14 The Ninth Circuit rejected arguments identical to Complainants' in *Greene v. Sprint*
15 *Communications Company*, 340 F.3d 1047 (9th Cir. 2003), *cert. denied*, 541 U.S. 988 (2004).
16 The plaintiffs in *Greene* were payphone service providers ("PSPs"), like Complainants, who
17 brought a claim in District Court against Sprint seeking DAC. The court first decided that
18 Section 276 does not create either a private right of action or a right to compensation that PSPs
19 can enforce. 340 F.3d at 1050. Instead, as in this case, the PSPs' right to compensation (if any)
20 was based on orders and rules of the FCC, not on Section 276 directly. *Id.* at 1050-51. The court
21 held that Sections 206 and 207 provide a remedy and procedure for enforcing only claims made
22 directly under the statutes, but not claims based on rules or orders of the FCC. *Id.* Thus, the
23 Ninth Circuit concluded that the federal courts did not have subject-matter jurisdiction over the
24 plaintiffs' claims. *Id.* at 1053. Similarly, in this case, Complainants' claims are based on the
25 FCC's Waiver Order, not on Section 276, which does not create a private right of action in any
26

1 event. For these reasons, Complainants do not have a claim under Section 206 and the
2 Commission is not ousted of its jurisdiction by Section 207.

3 Complainants' citation of *Global Crossing Telecommunications, Inc. v. Metrophones*
4 *Telecommunications, Inc.*, 550 U.S. 45 (2007), does not support their position that this case is
5 governed by Section 207. The FCC rules at issue in *Global Crossing* established a compensation
6 system and specifically provided that an IXC's refusal to pay compensation is a practice that is
7 unjust or unreasonable under 47 U.S.C. § 201(b). Because of that specific regulation, the
8 Supreme Court found that the claim was a suit to enforce Section 201(b), and that the plaintiff
9 had filed a claim under the Act that was governed by Sections 206 and 207. The Court noted
10 that the FCC was not required to find that every failure to pay is a violation of Section 201(b)
11 and that not every violation of an FCC regulation is an unjust or unreasonable practice under
12 Section 201(b). 550 U.S. at 56. The Court was aware of *Greene* and distinguished it on the
13 basis that *Greene* did not involve either the FCC's application or interpretation of Section 201(b),
14 or a regulation promulgated pursuant to the authority of Section 201(b). *Id.* at 61.

15 Complainants' claim is not made under Section 276, which does not authorize a private
16 cause of action, nor is it made under any other section of the Telecommunications Act. Thus, it
17 is not governed by Section 207 and the Commission is not deprived of jurisdiction to decide it.
18 Instead, it is a claim to enforce an FCC order, seeking a refund of rates filed with this
19 Commission pursuant to an FCC delegation, which this Commission has authority to decide. It
20 is also worth noting that public utility commissions in no fewer than seven states have
21 considered and denied claims for refunds under the Waiver Order, confirming that state
22 commissions have jurisdiction to decide such claims.⁸

23 _____
24 ⁸ See, e.g., Alabama: *Southern Public Communication Association v. Bellsouth Telecommunications, Inc.*, Docket
25 29172 (Alabama Public Service Commission, April 13, 2004) (dismissing claim for refunds); Florida: *Re: Bellsouth*
26 *Telecommunications, Inc.*, 2004 WL 2359261 (Florida Public Service Commission, Oct. 7, 2004) (denying claim for
refunds); Illinois: *Investigation Into Certain Payphone Issues as Directed in Docket 97-0255*, ICC Docket No. 98-
0195, Interim Order (Illinois Commerce Commission, Nov. 12, 2003) (denying claim for refunds); Kansas: *In the*
Matter of the Application of the Kansas Payphone Association etc., Docket No. 02-KAPT-651-GIT (Kansas State

1 Complainants have not challenged the Commission's organic authority to order refunds
2 under state law; however, the Commission has already decided that it has that authority. Order
3 No. 08-487 at 41. The FCC delegated authority to the Commission to set PAL rates in the
4 exercise of the Commission's statutory authority to establish rates for intrastate
5 telecommunications services. That carries with it the authority to order refunds of rates it has
6 set, if required (and it most certainly is **not** required in this case).

7 **III. CONCLUSION**

8 For the foregoing reasons, as well as those asserted in Qwest's Opening Brief, the
9 Commission should grant Qwest's motion for summary judgment and dismiss Complainants'
10 Complaint.

11 DATED: August 27, 2010

12 By: 

13 Lawrence H. Reichman, OSB No. 860836
14 Perkins Coie LLP
15 1120 N.W. Couch Street, Tenth Floor
16 Portland, OR 97209-4128

17 and

18 Adam Sherr
19 Qwest Corporation
20 1600 Seventh Avenue
21 Seattle, WA 9819

22 Attorneys for Qwest Corporation

23
24 Corporation Commission, Dec. 10, 2002) (denying claim for refunds); Mississippi: *In the Matter of Implementation*
25 *of the Pay Telephone Reclassification and Compensation Provisions etc.*, Docket No. 2003-AD-927 (Mississippi
26 Public Service Commission, Sept. 1, 2004) (dismissing claim for refunds); Missouri: *Christ v. Southwestern Bell*
Telephone Company, L.P., et al, Case No. TC-2003-0066 (Missouri Public Service Commission, Jan. 9, 2003)
(dismissing claim for refunds); Ohio: *Payphone Association of Ohio v. Public Utilities Commission of Ohio et al.*,
109 Ohio St.3d 453, 849 N.E.2d 4 (2006) (affirming order of Ohio PUC denying refund claim).

1
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

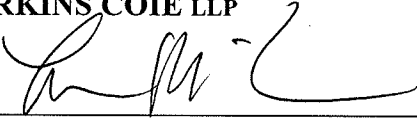
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this 27th day of August, 2010, served the foregoing **QWEST CORPORATION'S REPLY MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT** upon all parties of record in this proceeding by causing a copy to be sent by electronic mail and U.S. mail to the following addresses:

Frank G. Patrick
fgplawpc@hotmail.com
PO Box 231119
Portland, OR 97281

Jason W. Jones
Jason.w.jones@state.or.us
Department of Justice
1162 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

PERKINS COIE LLP

By 

Lawrence H. Reichman, OSB #860836
Attorneys for Qwest Corporation