BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

UM 1175/UM 1207

In the Matter of EXTENDED AREA SERVICE Petition by the Chitwood Exchange for EAS to the Blodgett, Corvallis, Harlan, Philomath, Siletz and Summit Exchanges Petition by the Antelope Exchange for EAS to the Culver, Redmond and Bend Exchanges	**QWEST'S PETITION FOR A WAIVER OF CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER NOS. 06-226 AND 06-198**

Pursuant to OAR 860-013-0020, Qwest Corporation ("Qwest") respectfully petitions the

Public Utility Commission ("Commission") to grant Qwest a waiver of the customer notification

requirements in Order Nos. 06-226 and 06-198 and to allow Qwest to make its customer

notification with a message on or in the customers' telephone bills with the specific language

that Qwest proposes below.

REQUEST FOR WAIVER

Pursuant to Order Nos. 06-226 and 06-198, the Commission recently granted two petitions

for Extended Area Service (EAS) between the Chitwood exchange and the Blodgett, Corvallis,

Harlan, Philomath, Siletz and Summit exchanges (Order No. 06-226, in docket UM 1175), and

between the Antelope exchange and the Culver, Redmond and Bend exchanges (Order No. 06-

198, docket UM 1207). As a result of these orders, toll-free calling at EAS rates will be available

for the interexchange routes at issue in these proceedings no later than August 5, 2006.

These orders both note that customer notification is a critical part of any EAS

implementation, and that customers have the right to receive adequate information in an

understandable format so that they can make informed decisions. The Commission further noted

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that the requirements adopted in Order No. 91-1140 accomplish such goal. Order No. 06-226, pp. 7-8; Order No. 06-198, pp. 7-8. Therefore, the orders require the affected LECs to comply with such customer notification requirements by providing their customers with certain information, such as the opportunity to change EAS options for a six-month period following implementation of EAS without incurring a fee, and a brochure with information about the company's EAS options and rates that is mailed to each customer before and after the EAS implementation. Order No. 06-226, pp. 7-8; Order No. 06-198, pp. 7-8.

The reason for Qwest's petition for waiver is that unlike most EAS approvals, where there are new EAS routes, with a rate change, here there are some communities that will receive new EAS routes *but their rates may not change*. Thus, in order to avoid a costly customer notification process for a group of communities that receive new routes, but whose rates may not increase, Qwest seeks a waiver of the detailed customer notification requirements in Order Nos. 06-226 and 06-198 by allowing Qwest to notify customers through a message on the customers' telephone bill, or an insert to the customers' bill. The specific notice would read as follows:

> *Effective [Month/Date, 2006] you will no longer have to dial 1+ for calls to [community]. Your calls to [community] will become part of your local calling area. There will be no additional charge to you unless you are one of the few customers that elects measured EAS service with a usage package. In some instances, there will be a small increase in the price of EAS usage packages.*
>
> *Your Flat or Measured Extended Area Service rate will remain unchanged.*
> *If you have any questions please call Qwest at 1-800-xxx-xxxx.*

Finally, Qwest has discussed this request with Commission Staff. Qwest believes that Staff is in agreement with this request, and thus has no objections to Qwest's petition for waiver. Further, Staff has agreed that the specific language set forth above is acceptable to it if the Commission grants the waiver requested.

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CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Qwest respectfully requests that the Commission grant Qwest a waiver of the customer notification requirements in Order Nos. 06-226 and 06-198, and further, that the Commission allow Qwest to make its customer notification with a message on the customers' telephone bills with the specific language set forth above.

DATED: May 15, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

_____
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Attorney for Qwest Corporation

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Carla M. Butler
Lead Paralegal

May 15, 2006

Carol L. Hulse
Oregon Public Utility Commission
550 Capitol St., NE, Suite 215
P.O. Box 2148
Salem, OR 97308-2148

    Re: UM 1175 and UM 1207

Dear Ms. Hulse:

    Enclosed please find an original and (5) copies of Qwest Corporation's Petition for a Waiver of Customer Notification Requirements in Order Nos. 06-226 and 06-198, along with a certificate of service..

    Thank you for your assistance.

            Sincerely,

            Carla M. Butler

CMB:
Enclosure
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

UM 1175

I hereby certify that on the 15th day of May 2006, I served the foregoing **QWEST CORPORATION'S PETITION FOR A WAIVER OF CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER NOS. 06-226 AND 06-198** 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.

Nancy Lee Bohlman 5613 Nashville Rd. Eddyville, OR 97343	Pioneer Telephone Cooperative Randy Morgan P.O. Box 631 Philomath, OR 97370-0631	Department of Justice Stephanie Andrus Regulated Utility & Busn. Section 1162 Court St., NE Salem, OR 97301-4096
Department of Justice Michael Weirich Regulated Utility & Busn. Section 1162 Court St., NE Salem, OR 97301-4096	Oregon Public Utility Commission Lance Ball P.O. Box 2148 Salem, OR 97308-2148	

DATED this 15th day of May 2006.

QWEST CORPORATION

By: _____
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