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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

UM 1134

In the Matter of)	
)	ORDER
QWEST CORPORATION)	
)	
Petition to Eliminate Reconciliation)	
Requirement.)	

DISPOSITION: PETITION GRANTED

At its Public Meeting on March 2, 2004, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon adopted Staff's recommendation to accept Qwest Corporation's (Qwest) petition to remove a requirement placed on Qwest in Docket No. UM 930, Order No. 00-545. The Order required Qwest to provide a list of deviations from the previous year's construction budgets when filing annual construction budgets.

Staff's recommendation is attached as Appendix A and is incorporated by reference.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that Qwest Corporation's petition to eliminate the reconciliation requirement established in Order No. 00-545 is granted.

Made, entered, and effective _____.

Lee Beyer
Chairman

John Savage
Commissioner

Ray Baum
Commissioner

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order pursuant to ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-014-0095. A copy of any such request must also be served on each party to the proceeding as provided by OAR 860-013-0070(2). A party may appeal this order to a court pursuant to applicable law.

blocking or held order issues. Overall, Qwest has made considerable improvements in service quality and customer complaints, once over 1000 per month, are now at an all time low.

The Commission closed Docket No. UM 930 with Order No. 00-545 which said in part: "In view of the change in management at Qwest and the general service quality trend, there appears to be no compelling reason to continue this docket. At the same time, it is important for the Commission to be able to continue monitoring Qwest's construction activities. We therefore adopt Staff's recommendation that Qwest's construction budget filing include a list of deviations from the previous year's construction budget."

Qwest believes that it should be treated the same as all other large telecommunications utilities in Oregon. Qwest is the only telecommunications utility that must file a list of deviations from the previous year's construction budget. Qwest claims that it takes one full time employee 120 hours to do this reconciliation. I believe that the improvement in Qwest's service justifies removing the reconciliation requirement.

Qwest has asked for an extension of time to file its 2004 construction budget. Qwest has asked for a similar extension for other construction budgets. Other large telecommunications utilities have asked for similar extensions. When an extension request is submitted, I ask the telecommunications utility to file a list of deviations from the previous year's budget.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

That the requirement in Order No. 00-545 to provide a list of deviations from the previous year's construction budget be removed.

Qwest UM1134 construction budget