

**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 (UM 1175),)
)
and)
)
Petition by the Antelope Exchange for EAS to)
the Redmond, Culver, and Bend)
Exchanges (UM 1207).)

ORDER

DISPOSITION: MOTION GRANTED

On May 15, 2006, Qwest Corporation (Qwest) moved for a waiver of the separately mailed notice requirements for its customers who will receive new extended area service (EAS) routes but whose rates will not change.

In UM 1175, Order No. 06-226, the Commission approved the petition for EAS routes from the Chitwood exchange to the Blodgett, Corvallis, Harlan, Philomath, Siletz, and Summit exchanges. In UM 1207, Order No. 06-198, the Commission approved the petition for EAS routes from the Antelope exchange to the Redmond, Culver and Bend exchanges. In those orders, the Commission stated that companies should notify customers receiving new EAS routes by a mailed brochure, instructing customers how to calculate their bills under the flat EAS rate or the measured rate and select the most cost-effective EAS option. See Order No. 06-226, 7-8; Order No. 06-198, 7-8.

Instead, Qwest wishes to notify customers whose bills will not change through a message on their telephone bills, or an insert to the customers' bills. 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.

Qwest states that it has discussed this request and the specific language with Staff, and believes that Staff does not object.

Staff responded on May 25, 2006. In its response, Staff expressed concern that Qwest's proposed waiver would apply to customers who *may* experience a change in rates, depending on whether the customer elects measured EAS service with a usage package. After a request for clarification, Qwest states that its waiver will only apply to customers that receive new routes but no change in rates. Customers that may see a change in rates will receive notification consistent with Order Nos. 06-198 and 06-226.

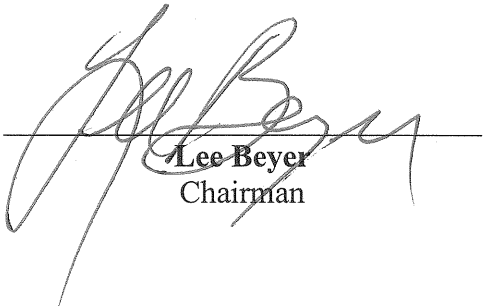
In this instance, the customers affected by the notice waiver will not see any change in their bills as a result of additional EAS routes. The customer notification provisions ordered in these dockets stemmed from Order No. 91-1140, in which the provisions were required "so that [customers] can make informed choices" about their billing selection. *See* Order No. 91-1140, 60. Qwest's motion for waiver will only apply to customers whose rates will not change in any way, so the motion should be granted. In lieu of the separate notification, Qwest should place the above cited language on its customer bills as proposed in its motion.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that

- 1. The motion by Qwest Corporation to waive customer notification by separate mailer for customers whose rates will not increase is granted; and
- 2. Qwest Corporation should notify the applicable customers by wording on customer bills, as set forth in the motion.

Made, entered, and effective JUN 14 2006 .



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 by filing a petition for review with the Court of Appeals in compliance with ORS 183.480-183.484.