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AZ CORP COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

Arizona Corporation Commission JUN 19 12 17 PM '98

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JAMES M. IRVIN  
Chairman  
RENZ D. JENNINGS  
Commissioner  
CARL J. KUNASEK  
Commissioner

DOCKETED

JUN 19 1998

DOCKETED BY *jml*

IN THE MATTER OF U S WEST  
COMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S COMPLIANCE  
WITH § 271 OF THE  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996.

DOCKET NO. T-00000B-97-0238  
REPLY TO INTERVENORS'  
COMMENTS

In lieu of filing specific reply comments to the comments of various intervenors filed in this docket, U S WEST Communications, Inc. ("U S WEST") replies as follows.

The comments filed by AT&T, TCG, MCI and Brooks revisit arguments made when the Commission originally established the procedural mechanism for U S WEST notification of Section 271 compliance. Specifically, the CLECS contend that phased verification, on an item-by-item basis, will not fulfill the Commission's responsibilities under Section 271. Instead, the CLECs continue to maintain that the Commission hold one comprehensive proceeding after U S WEST has asserted its compliance with all checklist items. They would therefore require U S WEST to make a complete filing as to all checklist items, including those presently filed with the Commission.

The CLECs further argue that the Section 271 requirements are intertwined with each other and cannot be evaluated in isolation. The CLEC comments contain a discussion of considerations

1 completely extraneous to the five items upon which U S WEST has  
2 filed and, indeed, raise a number of issues relative to checklist  
3 items not included in U S WEST's partial filing (e.g., operational  
4 support systems, performance measures, spot frames, etc.). The  
5 inclusion of these additional checklist items is pervasive in the  
6 CLEC testimony and comments filed, consistent with their position  
7 that Section 271 issues are non-severable.

8       As a result, any reply testimony filed by U S WEST at this  
9 time would, by necessity, be forced to address items not presently  
10 before the Commission. Such testimony would be incomplete and  
11 counterproductive to the process established by the Commission  
12 because U S WEST has not yet certified its compliance with such  
13 items before this Commission. Therefore, U S WEST reserves its  
14 right to file reply comments and testimony on all checklist items  
15 at such future date when these issues are properly before the  
16 Commission.

17       Finally, given the CLECs' position that the integrated nature  
18 of the checklist items requires one comprehensive hearing relative  
19 to Section 271 compliance, it would appear that discovery at this  
20 time would also be premature and unnecessary. U S WEST is,  
21 however, mindful that the Hearing Division has ordered discovery  
22 to proceed. To that end, U S WEST will continue to respond to  
23 discovery requests for the checklist items upon which it sought  
24 Commission review in its partial filing. This is in full accord  
25 with the intervenors' acknowledgement voiced during the telephonic  
26 argument conducted by the Hearing Division on June 15, 1998, where

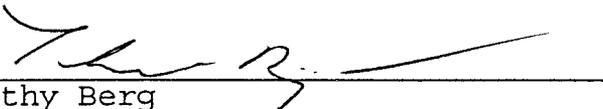
1 they recognized that it was appropriate to limit discovery in this  
2 manner.

3 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 19th day of June, 1998.

4 U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
5 Thomas Dethlefs  
6 Charles W. Steese

7 and

8 FENNEMORE CRAIG

9  
10 By   
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17 Communications, Inc.

18 ORIGINAL and ten copies of  
19 the foregoing filed this 19th day  
20 of June, 1998, with:

21 Docket Control  
22 ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION  
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25 COPY of the foregoing hand  
26 delivered this 19th day of June, 1998,  
to:

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*Rose Hymowitz*