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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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CARL J. KUNASEK  
CHAIRMAN  
JIM IRVIN  
COMMISSIONER  
WILLIAM A. MUNDELL  
COMMISSIONER

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

AUG 11 1999

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AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCUMENT CONTROL

DOCKETED BY *Ycm*

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
OF U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., )  
A COLORADO CORPORATION, FOR A )  
HEARING TO DETERMINE THE EARNINGS )  
OF THE COMPANY, THE FAIR VALUE OF )  
THE COMPANY FOR RATEMAKING )  
PURPOSES, TO FIX A JUST AND )  
REASONABLE RATE OF RETURN THEREON )  
AND TO APPROVE RATE SCHEDULES )  
DESIGNED TO DEVELOP SUCH RETURN. )

Docket No. T-01051B-99-105

COMMISSION STAFF'S  
MOTION FOR AN  
EXTENSION OF THE DATES  
FOR FILING TESTIMONY  
AND HEARING

Staff of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission Staff"), by its attorneys, hereby moves for an extension of the dates for filing testimony and hearing contained in the Commission's March 4, 1999 Procedural Order. Commission Staff's proposed procedural schedule is attached as Exhibit A. Commission Staff requests an extension of the dates for filing testimony and hearing for the following reasons.

First, it is likely that the Commission will soon be issuing an Order in Docket No. T-01051B-97-0689 ("Depreciation Docket") which will establish new depreciation rates for U S WEST. Commission Staff believes that it would be less confusing and more productive if the new depreciation rates ultimately adopted by the Commission were reflected in U S WEST's schedules before parties filed their initial testimony. Otherwise, both the Company's schedules and the Staff's and intervenors' initial testimony will likely require significant modification at a later date to reflect the new depreciation rates ordered by the Commission.

Commission Staff recommends that the Company be given approximately two (2) weeks from the date of the Commission's Order in the Depreciation Docket to update its schedules to incorporate the new depreciation rates. Under Exhibit A, Staff and the other

1 intervenors would then have the time remaining until October 25, 1999 to file their initial  
2 testimony.

3           Second, Staff believes additional time is needed to evaluate whether a form of  
4 alternative regulation would be appropriate for U S WEST. Commission Staff has recently  
5 enlisted the services of a second consultant for this purpose. Commission Staff believes that it is  
6 appropriate to give further consideration to this issue in the context of this case in light of certain  
7 proposals made by the Company in its Application, including its request for competitive pricing  
8 zones. The Commission Staff's second consultant will need some additional time to conduct  
9 further discovery and review the significant amount of testimony and data that has already been  
10 submitted in this case. Commission Staff believes the attached proposed schedule appropriately  
11 reflects the additional time that will be needed by its consultant to examine the Company's filing  
12 and determine whether adoption by the Commission of a form of alternative regulation for U S  
13 WEST would be appropriate.

14           Staff has contacted U S WEST and all of the active intervenors<sup>1</sup> in this case and  
15 all of these parties agree to the proposed schedule as set forth on Exhibit A. Staff would ask,  
16 however, that the Hearing Division also include a date for the filing of revised schedules by  
17 U S WEST which incorporate the new depreciation rates established by the Commission prior to  
18 the date initial Staff and intervenor testimony is due.

19           Finally, U S WEST has agreed to waive the deadlines contained in A.A.C. R14-2-  
20 103 which would otherwise apply in this case including the 12 month deadline for the  
21 Commission to make its determination on the Company's Application. U S WEST has agreed to  
22 extend the final Commission order date for the same amount of time that the hearing is  
23 postponed, which would be an additional 60 days from the original deadline for Commission  
24 action.

25 ...

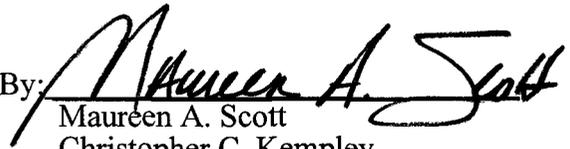
26 ...

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27 <sup>1</sup> Staff contacted the attorneys for the following intervenors: RUCO, the  
28 Department of Defense, AT&T, MCI, e-spire™, Cox, Teligent, ACI, Sprint, the Arizona  
Payphone Association, TDS, OnePoint Communications, Valley Telephone Cooperative, Copper  
Valley Telephone, Citizens Utilities and Cable Plus.

1                   WHEREFORE, Commission Staff respectfully requests that the dates for the  
2 filing of testimony and hearing in this case be extended consistent with Exhibit A for the reasons  
3 given above.

4                   RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1999.

5  
6  
7 By:   
8                   Maureen A. Scott  
9                   Christopher C. Kempley  
                    Attorneys, Legal Division  
                    Arizona Corporation Commission

10 Original and ten copies  
11 filed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August,  
12 1999 with:

13 Docket Control  
14 Arizona Corporation Commission  
15 1200 West Washington  
16 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

17 Copies of the foregoing  
18 mailed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of  
19 August 1999 to:

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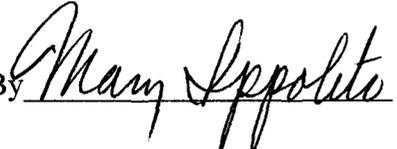
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25 By 

## EXHIBIT A

### STAFF'S PROPOSED REVISED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE FOR U S WEST RATE CASE

Docket No. T-01051B-99-0105

	<u>Current Schedule</u>	<u>Staff Proposed</u>
STAFF TESTIMONY/EXHIBITS	Aug. 24, 1999	October 25, 1999
INTERVENORS TESTIMONY/EXHIBITS	Aug. 24, 1999	October 25, 1999
REBUTTAL TESTIMONY/EXHIBITS	Sept. 21, 1999	Nov. 19, 1999
SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY/EXHIBITS	Oct. 12, 1999	Dec. 17, 1999
REJOINDER TESTIMONY/EXHIBITS	Oct. 26, 1999	Dec. 30, 1999
HEARING	Nov. 4, 1999	Jan. 10, 2000