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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
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CARL J. KUNASEK
Chairman
JIM IRVIN
Commissioner
WILLIAM A. MUNDELL
Commissioner

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AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCUMENT CONTROL

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 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-99-0105

**MOTION OF THE RESIDENTIAL UTILITY CONSUMER OFFICE AND THE
COMMISSION STAFF FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE DIRECT
TESTIMONY DUE TO OUTSTANDING QWEST
DISCOVERY RESPONSES**

The Staff of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission" or "ACC") and the Residential Utility Consumer Office ("RUCO") hereby move for an extension of time to file Direct Testimony due to continuing discovery problems and an increasing number of outstanding discovery responses by U S WEST Communications, Inc. ("U S WEST"), now Qwest Corporation ("Qwest") (hereinafter referred to as "Qwest" or the "Company"). The Commission Staff and RUCO respectfully request that the time to file Staff and Intervenor Direct Testimony be extended from July 25, 2000, to August 10, 2000, so outstanding discovery responses can be obtained, with the assistance of the Hearing Division as necessary, and Staff and RUCO have an opportunity to do any follow-up discovery that may be necessary. Staff and RUCO are not proposing any further changes to the procedural schedule at this time but would request expedited consideration of their Motion and will address any further changes that may be necessary to the current schedule at the time of oral argument on Staff's Motion to Compel which is being filed simultaneously with this Motion for an Extension of Time.

1 RUCO and Staff's Motion for an extension of time to file Direct Testimony until
2 August 10, 2000, is predicated upon the following two conditions: 1) that the Company be
3 immediately required to provide responses to all outstanding discovery, and, 2) that the
4 Company be ordered to comply with the five (5) day turn around on any necessary follow-up
5 discovery that either RUCO or Staff may have.

6 With regard to outstanding discovery, Staff is filing a Motion to Compel and is
7 requesting therein that the Company be required to immediately provide responses to all
8 outstanding discovery requests. While both the ACC Staff and RUCO have had ongoing meet
9 and confer sessions with the Company to resolve their differences, the number of outstanding
10 data responses has multiplied in recent weeks and days. Staff brought the issue of outstanding
11 responses and the need to extend the deadline for filing testimony if the responses were not
12 immediately provided, to the attention of the Company at least a week ago, in an effort to avoid
13 having to extend the current procedural schedule. Notwithstanding, the Company has still failed
14 to provide many of the outstanding responses to Staff and RUCO, and thus, has no one to blame
15 but itself for any delay associated with Staff's and RUCO's request. The Company could have
16 averted this situation if it had provided its responses on time and if it had acted to bring its
17 outstanding responses current when requested by Staff. Nonetheless, given the number of
18 outstanding responses, it is now impossible for the Staff and RUCO to file Direct Testimony on
19 July 25, 2000, the deadline contained in the current procedural schedule.

20 With regard to the second condition, the procedural schedule in this case was predicated
21 upon a five (5) day turn around by Qwest on discovery requests. Qwest has not been meeting the
22 five (5) day turn around requirement on the Commission Staff's or RUCO's discovery requests.
23 Since the Company was required to update its test year, the Company is taking on average
24 approximately 11.2 days to respond to discovery requests, far longer than anticipated by the Staff
25 or RUCO when the existing procedural schedule was agreed upon and far longer than the five (5)
26 days required in the Commission's May 5, 2000 Procedural Order. The Company has not yet
27 responded to questions submitted as far back as May 5, 2000, by the Staff Consultants. The net
28 impact of this delay and the Company's failure to meet the five (5) day turn around on discovery

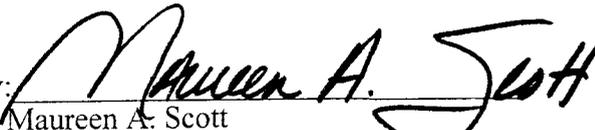
1 requests is that the Staff, RUCO and their Consultants have been unable to conduct the follow-up
2 discovery that is necessary and required on many questions in order to properly evaluate the
3 Company's rate application.

4 Staff and RUCO request expedited consideration of their Motion for an extension of time
5 to file Direct Testimony, and request that changes to other deadlines contained in the procedural
6 schedule be discussed among the parties at the time of oral argument on Staff's Motion to
7 Compel.

8 WHEREFORE, the Arizona Corporation Commission Staff and the Residential Utility
9 Consumer Office hereby request an extension of the deadline for filing Staff and Intervenor
10 testimony until August 10, 2000.

11 RESPECTFULLY submitted this 18th day of July, 2000.

12 **THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION STAFF**

13
14 By: 

15 Maureen A. Scott
16 Christopher C. Kempley
17 Attorneys, Legal Division
18 1200 West Washington Street
19 Phoenix, Arizona 85007
20 Telephone: (602) 542-6022
21 Facsimile: (602) 542-4870
22 e-mail: maureenscott@cc.state.az.us

23 **THE RESIDENTIAL UTILITY CONSUMER OFFICE**

24 By:  MAS

25 Scott Wakefield
26 2828 North Central Avenue, #1200
27 Phoenix, Arizona 85004
28 Telephone: (602) 279-5659, ext. 349
Facsimile: (602) 285-0350

1 The ORIGINAL and fifteen
2 copies of the foregoing were
3 filed this 18th day of July, 2000
4 with:

5 Docket Control
6 Arizona Corporation Commission
7 1200 W. Washington Street
8 Phoenix, AZ 85007

9 COPIES of the foregoing
10 were mailed/hand delivered
11 this 18th day of July, 2000
12 to:

13 Timothy Berg
14 Theresa Dwyer
15 FENNEMORE CRAIG
16 3003 North Central Avenue, Suite 2600
17 Phoenix, Arizona 85012
18 Attorneys for U S WEST Communications, Inc.

19 Scott S. Wakefield, Chief Counsel
20 RUCO
21 2828 North Central Avenue, Suite 1200
22 Phoenix, Arizona 85004-1022

23 Donald A. Low, Senior Attorney
24 SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P.
25 8140 Ward Parkway - 5E
26 Kansas City, MO 64114

27 Steven J. Duffy
28 RIDGE & ISAACSON, P.C.
3101 North Central Avenue, Suite 432
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Raymond S. Heyman
Randall H. Warner
ROSHKA HEYMAN & DEWULF PLC
Two Arizona Center
400 North 5th Street, Suite 1000
Phoenix, Arizona 85004
Attorneys for Arizona Payphone Association

...

...

1 Peter Q. Nyce, Jr.
2 General Attorney, Regulatory Law Office
3 U.S. Army Legal Services Agency
4 Department of the Army
5 901 N. Stuart Street, Suite 700
6 Arlington, VA 22203-1837

7 Richard Lee
8 SNAVELY, KING & MAJOROS
9 O'Connor & Lee, Inc.
10 1220 L Street, N.W., Suite 410
11 Washington, DC 20005

12 Thomas H. Campbell
13 LEWIS AND ROCA
14 40 N. Central Avenue
15 Phoenix, Arizona 85004
16 Attorneys for MCI Telecommunications
17 Corporation and MCImetro Access Transmission Services, Inc.

18 Thomas F. Dixon
19 MCI WORLDCOM
20 707 17th Street, Suite 3900
21 Denver, Colorado 80202
22 Attorneys for MCI Telecommunications
23 Corporation and MCImetro Access Transmission Services, Inc

24 Maria Arias-Chapleau
25 Richard S. Wolters
26 AT&T
27 1875 Lawrence Street, Suite 1575
28 Denver, Colorado 80202
Attorneys for AT&T Communications of the
Mountain States, Inc.

Patricia vanMidde
AT&T
2800 North Central, Room 828
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Diane Bacon, Legislative Director
COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA
5818 North 7th Street, Suite 206
Phoenix, Arizona 85014-5811

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25
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27
28

Craig Marks
CITIZENS UTILITIES COMPANY
2901 N. Central Avenue, Suite 1660
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

J.E. & B.V. McGillivray
300 S. McCormick
Prescott, Arizona 86303

Jeffrey W Crockett
SNELL & WILMER
One Arizona Center
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-0001

Michael Patten
BROWN & BAIN, P.A.
2901 N. Central Avenue, Suite 2000
P.O. Box 400
Phoenix, Arizona 85001-0400

Douglas Hsiao
RHYTHMS LINKS, INC.
6933 Revere Parkway
Englewood, Colorado 80112

Jim Scheltema
BLUMFIELD & COHEN
1625 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036

Albert Sterman
ARIZONA CONSUMERS COUNCIL
2849 E. 8th Street
Tucson, Arizona 85716

Martin A. Aronson
William D. Cleaveland
MORRILL & ARONSON, P.L.C.
One East Camelback, Suite 340
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-1648

By: 