

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of The Commission,) Application No. NUSF-17
on its own motion, seeking to)
determine access costs for US)
West.) PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER
)
)
)
) Entered: May 17, 2002

BY THE HEARING OFFICER:

The Commission opened the above-captioned docket on October 14, 1999 seeking to determine access costs for US West, now known as Qwest Corporation (Qwest). On April 30, 2002, Qwest filed its Transition Plan which included a proposal to remove implicit subsidies from switched access services and replace them with explicit subsidies from the NUSF. The Commission received Formal Interventions from Cox Telcom, LLC, AT&T, Sprint, NT&T, and several rural independent carriers collectively known as the Rural Independents. All petitions for Formal Intervention filed by the above-named carriers have been accepted by the Commission. All were represented at the prehearing conference held on May 14, 2002 in the Commission Hearing Room.

Notice of this application was published in the Daily Record on May 6, 2002. Notice of the prehearing conference was also mailed to the interested parties on May 6, 2002.

The Hearing Officer issues this Prehearing Conference Order to reflect the decisions reached at the Prehearing Conference held on May 14, 2002.

A. ISSUES:

The issue as to whether the implementation of the Transition Plan filed in this proceeding would constitute the removal of Qwest's implicit subsidies from its access charges pursuant to the Commission's decision in C-1628 remains the key issue for the hearing. Upon discussion with Commission staff, the Hearing Officer ruled that the issue posed by the Rural Independents as to whether the access rates proposed by Qwest were in the "public interest" was beyond the scope of this proceeding.

B. PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE:

The Hearing Officer and the parties established the following procedural schedule:

June 7, 2002: Qwest's Prefiled Testimony is due.

June 28, 2002: Reply Testimony to be filed by the Formal Intervenors.

July 12, 2002: Rebuttal Testimony of Qwest due.

C. HEARING

After hearing discussion from all parties on this issue, the Hearing Officer decided that this matter should be set for hearing. A hearing was therefore scheduled **July 24, 2002** at 9:30 a.m., in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Cross-examination will be limited in the proceeding. Qwest will be permitted to use two hours in cross-examination. All other parties each will have a total of one hour for cross-examination. The Commission reserved the issue of leave to file post-hearing briefs for decision at the hearing.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Hearing Officer that the proceedings regarding the above-captioned matter shall be conducted in conformity with the foregoing paragraphs of this Prehearing Conference Order.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 17th day of May, 2002.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director