

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. C-2137/PI-32
on its own motion, seeking to)
to conduct an inquiry into the) PROGRESSION ORDER No. 1
Commission's jurisdiction as)
it relates to the US West/Qwest)
merger.) Entered: December 21, 1999

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Commission, on its own motion, instituted this inquiry into the Commission's jurisdiction as it related to the pending US West/Qwest merger. In so doing, the Commission requested that interested parties file comments on or before November 3, 1999, regarding the scope of the Commission's jurisdiction in said merger. Comments were timely received from US West, Inc./Qwest, McLeodUSA Telecommunications and Rhythms Links, Inc.

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

Upon review of the comments filed herein, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that no application for approval of this merger is required. However, as a merger of this size impacts a large number of Nebraska consumers, the Commission does feel it is necessary to investigate the impact that this merger will potentially have on consumers of telecommunications services in the state of Nebraska.

Therefore, the Commission will utilize this docket to also consider the impact of said merger on Nebraska consumers. In so doing, the Commission hereby requests that comments regarding the impact of the US West/Qwest merger be filed with this Commission on or before January 18, 2000. No reply comment cycle will be permitted.

Following the review of such comments, the Commission believes that it would be in the public's best interest to conduct public informational meetings to provide a forum for public comment regarding the proposed merger. Therefore, the Commission hereby schedules the following video conference informational meetings to take public comment:

January 27, 2000:

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Nebraska State Office Building - Host Site
Room 134, 1313 Farnam on the Mall
Omaha, Nebraska

Alliance High School - Remote Site

100 West 14th Street, Room 513
Alliance, Nebraska

Grand Island College Park - Remote Site
Administrative Offices, Conference Room C
3180 West Highway 34
Grand Island, Nebraska

Northeast Community College - Remote Site
MaClay Building, Room 122
801 Benjamin
Norfolk, Nebraska

McKinley Education Center - Remote Site
Room 1, 301 West F Street
North Platte, Nebraska

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Nebraska State Office Building - Host Site
Room 134, 1313 Farnam on the Mall
Omaha, Nebraska

West Nebraska Community College - Remote Site
Chadron State College, Student Center
The Scottsbluff Room
10th & Shelton
Chadron, Nebraska

Grand Island College Park - Remote Site
Administrative Offices, Conference Room C
3180 West Highway 34
Grand Island, Nebraska

Northeast Community College - Remote Site
MaClay Building, Room 122
801 Benjamin
Norfolk, Nebraska

Furthermore, there will also be an evidentiary hearing set for January 27, 2000, starting at 3:00 p.m. at the Peter Kiewit Conference Center, 1313 Farnam Street, Omaha, Nebraska. Said hearing will be for the purposes of taking formal testimony under oath from US West/Qwest and any interveners wishing to comment in this matter. A prehearing conference will be held on January 19, 2000, at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room to establish the procedures for such evidentiary hearing.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that interested parties submit comments on the impact of the US West/Qwest merger on or before January 18, 2000. Parties filing such comments shall submit one original and five copies, as

well as one electronic copy on a diskette (in WordPerfect format).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the public informational meetings and evidentiary hearing shall be held on January 27, 2000, as set forth above.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that the Commission shall hold a prehearing conference on January 19, 2000, at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room to establish the procedures for the evidentiary hearing.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 21st day of December, 1999.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

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