

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: September 27, 2005

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE October 1, 2005

DATE: September 13, 2005

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Suzanne Smith

THROUGH: Lee Sparling through Phil Nyegaard and Cynthia Van Landuyt

SUBJECT: VERIZON NORTHWEST INC: (Advice No. 870) Removes obsolete balloting and allocation equal access language.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission allow the filing to go into effect October 1, 2005.

DISCUSSION:

On August 26, 2005, Verizon Northwest, Inc. (Verizon) filed Advice No. 870 in PUC OR No. 12 with an effective date of October 1, 2005. The filing was made under ORS 759.175, *Filing rate schedules and data with commission*. In this filing, Verizon proposes to remove obsolete balloting and allocation equal access language.

Prior to equal access,¹ end users who did not have a preselected long distance carrier were subject to allocation. Allocation is a method by which end users who are not presubscribed² are assigned to long distance phone companies in the same ratio as customers who selected a long distance carrier before an end office conversion to equal access. Verizon (previously GTE) completed equal access conversion of its Oregon central offices and subsequent notification to customers in July of 1997.

¹ Equal access allows end users to access all long distance carriers by simply dialing 1+ area code+ telephone number without any additional access codes.

² Presubscription is a service offered by the telephone company that encourages its customers to select one long distance carrier to use without having to dial a 10 digit access code.

A ballot is a release form that authorizes a customer's long distance telephone service to be switched to another long distance carrier or reseller.

Currently, Section 6.5 Miscellaneous Services—Presubscription, is no longer applicable and relevant. Since all Verizon central offices in Oregon are equal access, there is no longer any need to retain any balloting or allocation information.

After review, staff concludes that removing the obsolete balloting and allocation equal access language has no detrimental impact on customers. In accordance with ORS 759.185 *Suspension of rates pending hearing; time limitation; revenue collected subject to refund; interim rates*, the Commission could suspend this filing for further investigation. Staff recommends that the Commission allow the filing to go into effect October 1, 2005.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Verizon Northwest, Inc's Advice No. 870, which removes obsolete balloting and allocation equal access language, be allowed to go into effect October 1, 2005.