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UTILITIES COMMISSION

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*Attorneys for Qwest Corporation*

**BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FURTHER  
CONSOLIDATION OF RATE CENTERS  
FOR QWEST CORPORATION IN  
SOUTHERN IDAHO**

CASE NO. QWE-T-04-11  
**PETITION OF QWEST CORPORATION**

Qwest Corporation (Qwest), pursuant to Rule 53 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, *IDAPA 31.01.01. 053*, requests that the Commission modify its Order No. 28943 that consolidated certain rate centers in Qwest's southern Idaho territory. Specifically Qwest requests that the Rigby and Roberts exchanges be included in the consolidated group that is comprised of the Rexburg, Ririe, Shelley, and Idaho Falls exchanges. This Petition is based on the following:

**BACKGROUND**

1. On its own Motion in September 1999, the Commission initiated an investigation to examine various actions that had the potential to delay the need for additional telephone area

codes in Idaho. Rate center consolidation was one of the options considered because it reduces the number of rate centers in a local calling area and, consequently, conserves NXX prefixes.

2. After exploring other options for sustaining the 208 area code, and after allowing interested parties to offer comment, on February 1, 2001, the Commission entered Order No. 28943, which created a consolidated group, designated "Qwest Group No. 6," consisting of the Idaho Falls, Rexburg, Ririe, Shelley (including Firth) exchanges. Order No. 28943 also adopted Staff's recommendation that Rigby and Roberts be removed from the proposed list for Qwest Group No. 6 and that the two exchanges be consolidated into a separate group.

3. Staff's Comments in the rate consolidation docket explained that the recommendation to exclude Rigby and Roberts from Qwest Group No. 6 was based on a concern that consolidating rate centers could impact the Commission's ability to implement EAS in the future. However, since Order No. 28943 was entered, there has been no EAS activity relating to Rigby and Roberts, nor does it appear that such activity is pending or expected.

#### **REQUESTED MODIFICATION**

4. Qwest now asks that the Commission revisit the decision to exclude Rigby and Roberts from the larger consolidated group. These exchanges meet all of the criteria for consolidation with Qwest Group No. 6. In addition, the countervailing EAS concerns that prevented their inclusion in Qwest Group No. 6 have not materialized.

5. Customers located in the Rigby and Roberts exchanges have requested certain advanced services from Qwest that it cannot provide using the switches that are serving that rate center group. Further, Qwest cannot offer an alternative for the provision of such services that would preserve the customers' existing telephone numbers.

6. If the Rigby and Roberts exchanges are included in the same consolidated group as the Idaho Falls exchange, Qwest will be able to offer certain advanced services to customers in these locations by using the capabilities of the Idaho Falls switch, while preserving the customers' existing telephone numbers.

7. Qwest is not requesting compensation for the implementation of the requested rate center consolidation in this proceeding. Costs to implement the consolidation would be limited to reprogramming Qwest's billing system and would not require network changes.

WHEREFORE, Qwest respectfully requests that:

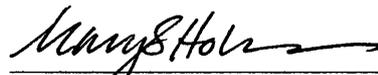
1. The Commission modify its Order No. 28943 to include the Rigby and Roberts exchanges in the consolidated rate group designated "Qwest Group No. 6," which now consists of the Idaho Falls, Rexburg, Ririe, Shelley (including Firth) exchanges.

2. The Commission find this issue does not require industry review, is not contentious, and does not justify opening contested docket prior to decision.

3. The Commission determine at its next available decision meeting to that the requested modified order may be entered.

Submitted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2004.

Qwest Corporation



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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2004, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **PETITION OF QWEST CORPORATION** was served upon the following:

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