

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SIX MONTH)
REVIEW OF QWEST PERFORMANCE)
ASSURANCE PLAN.) MINUTE ENTRY
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At the September 4, 2003 decision meeting, the Commission Staff presented a decision memorandum regarding the six-month review of Qwest's Performance Assurance Plan. Staff stated it has participated in discussions with other state commission staff members in the Qwest region to discuss conducting all or part of the six-month review via a multi-state collaboration. A single collaboration to address all the review issues was not acceptable because there are enough differences between the QPAPs implemented in each of the states, and in the manner in which the competitive market is developing in the different states, that led a number of states to prefer their own proceedings.

PID Reviews

A clear consensus was reached by state commission staff to use a multi-state collaboration to consider changes to the Performance Indicator Definitions (PIDs) that are a key element of the QPAP. Agreement on the scope and structure for the collaboration has also been developed.

Staff from the participating states solicited proposals from parties interested in facilitating this effort, and John Kern, who has performed the same role for two similar reviews in the Ameritech states, was selected to lead this effort.

The cost of the PID collaboration is expected to be paid by the participating states, using funds originally provided by Qwest in the form of Tier 2 penalty payments made by Qwest to the states. The total cost of these services is expected to be no more than \$50,000, with the amount to be paid by each state dependent upon the number of states that participate. Some Commissions have already indicated they will participate, and Staff expects that no fewer than 10 states will join in the effort. If so, Idaho's share of the costs should be less than \$5,000. Idaho has already received approximately \$29,000 in Tier 2 payments that are earmarked for review costs.

Now that the scope and structure of the collaboration has been agreed upon, Staff requested approval from the Commission for participation in this limited collaborative effort, and for authorization to reimburse Qwest for the funds to pay the facilitator. Staff recommended the Commission authorize Staff to participate and also authorize the independent administrator of the Tier 2 Fund to reimburse Qwest for the payments to the facilitator. Staff anticipates reimbursements will be made using the same procedures developed for disbursement from the Universal Service Fund, which require the signature of both Staff and the Fund Administrator.

We find that it is reasonable to authorize Staff to participate in the multi-state collaboration to consider changes to the Performance Indicator Definitions. We also authorize the independent administrator of the Tier 2 Fund to reimburse Qwest for the payments to the facilitator.

DATED at Boise, Idaho this 28th day of October 2003.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT



MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER



DENNIS S. HANSEN, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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