MEMORANDUM

TO:COMMISSIONER HANSEN

COMMISSIONER NELSON

COMMISSIONER SMITH

STEPHANIE MILLER

JOE CUSICK

FROM:WELDON STUTZMAN

DATE:JULY 16, 1998

RE:ASSISTANCE OF LIBERTY CONSULTING GROUP IN U S WEST’S SECTION 271 CASE

John Antonuk of Liberty Consulting Group recently provided information regarding their possible assistance to the Staff in the upcoming U S WEST Section 271 case.  Liberty could assist in any or all aspects of the case, including by providing written and oral testimony for a hearing.  Given the complexity of the case, Staff believes it would be very beneficial for Liberty to assist on at least some issues, for example, like evaluating competitors’ access to U S WEST’s operating support system.

Attached to this memorandum are three pages from a memo we received from John regarding Liberty’s possible assistance.  The attached pages provide a description of Liberty’s proposed assistance and projected costs.  John estimates that Liberty’s full involvement in a single case would cost approximately $54,600, but that economies are achieved if two or more states retain Liberty’s services.  In that case, John’s estimated budget is $26,000 to $35,000 per state.

In order to enable Liberty to coordinate schedules with other states, and thus maximize cost-effectiveness, the Commission should determine soon whether Liberty should be retained to assist Staff and the Commission with the Section 271 case.

Weldon Stutzman

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