

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WYOMING**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )  
QWEST CORPORATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT )  
FROM THE WYOMING UNIVERSAL SERVICE )  
FUND OF LOST REVENUES ASSOCIATED WITH ) DOCKET NO. 70000-TA-01-662  
THE RETROACTIVE RECALCULATION OF THE ) (RECORD NO. 6478)  
STATEWIDE AVERAGE LOCAL EXCHANGE )  
RATES AND ASSOCIATED SUPPORT )  
BENCHMARKS WHICH OCCURRED IN )  
SEPTEMBER OF 2000 )  
)

**ORDER  
(Issued August 1, 2001)**

This matter is before the Commission upon the Application of Qwest Corporation, hereinafter referred to as Qwest or the Company, for reimbursement, from the Wyoming Universal Service Fund, of lost revenues associated with the retroactive recalculation of the statewide average local exchange rates and associated support benchmarks, which occurred in September of 2000.

The Commission, having reviewed the request, its files regarding Qwest, relevant reports from the manager of the Wyoming Universal Service Fund, applicable telecommunications law and otherwise being fully advised in the premises, FINDS and CONCLUDES:

1. Qwest is a telecommunications company as defined by W.S. § 37-15-103(a)(xi) and, as such, subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction pursuant to the provisions of W.S. § 37-15-401.

2. Qwest submitted this filing on February 28, 2001, seeking reimbursement, from the Wyoming Universal Service Fund, of \$216,000.00 of lost revenues associated with the retroactive recalculation of the statewide average local exchange rates and associated support benchmarks. The loss of revenues occurred when the manager of the Wyoming Universal Service Fund, pursuant to a Commission directive, recalculated the statewide average local exchange rates, and the corresponding support benchmarks, including only the high cost loop portion of Union Telephone Company’s 1999 Federal Universal Service Fund receipts for the Wyoming Universal Service Fund’s fiscal year beginning July 1, 2000.

3. The above-described recalculation increased the Wyoming Universal Service Fund’s support benchmarks by \$0.84 for residential service and \$0.83 for business service. This recalculation, which was made in September of 2000, was retroactively applied back to July 1, 2000, resulting in a reduction of \$518,360.16 in Qwest’s annual draw from the Wyoming Universal Service Fund.

4. Qwest received notification of the change in October of 2000. Beginning November 19, 2000, Qwest made the necessary benchmark adjustments to customer bills, on a going forward basis. Consequently, Qwest’s average customer base was effectively changed on December 3, 2000. Qwest’s application specifically seeks reimbursement, through the Wyoming Universal Service Fund, of \$216,000.00, which represents lost revenues for the period of July 1 through December 3, 2000.

5. Qwest stated that it did not wish to back-bill customers to recover the lost revenues. Rather, Qwest advocated that a Commission sanctioned, one-time true-up be made, from the Wyoming Universal Service Fund, which would allow the recalculated benchmarks to become effective with its billing change as described above.

6. The Commission finds and concludes that Qwest’s request raises a legitimate concern which is appropriately addressed through a one-time true-up payable from the Wyoming Universal Service Fund. Qwest’s request is reasonable in light of the retroactive recalculation of the support benchmarks and the timing of the notice to Qwest.

7. The Commission does not believe that back-billing end use customers is an appropriate resolution to this matter.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. Pursuant to Commission action taken on April 17, 2001, Qwest Corporation’s request for reimbursement, from the Wyoming Universal Service Fund, of lost revenues associated with the retroactive recalculation of the statewide average local exchange rates and associated support benchmarks, which occurred in September of 2000, should be, and hereby is, approved, effective immediately.

2. The manager of the Wyoming Universal Service Fund is hereby authorized to issue Qwest a check in the amount of \$216,000.00 to reimburse the company for lost revenues for the period of July 1 through December 3, 2000.

3. This Order is effective immediately.

MADE and ENTERED at Cheyenne, Wyoming, this 1<sup>ST</sup> day of August, 2001.  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WYOMING

STEVE ELLENBECKER, Chairman

STEVE FURTNEY, Deputy Chairman

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(SEAL)

ATTEST:

IVAN H. WILLIAMS, Assistant Secretary

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