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#### BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of an Investigation into Pole Attachments.

Docket No. 04-999-03

RESPONSE BY UTOPIA TO COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY QWEST ON THE STANDARD POLE ATTACHMENT AGREEMENT AND REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN QWEST AND UTOPIA

The Utah Telecommunication Open Infrastructure Agency ("UTOPIA"), by and through its attorneys, Holland & Hart LLP, hereby respectfully submits the following Response to Comments submitted by Qwest Corporation ("Qwest") on August 18, 2006 under Docket Number 04-999-03 ("Qwest's Comments").

## I. Comments by Qwest

The factual assertions in Qwest's Comments were disputed by UTOPIA in litigation initiated by Qwest in the U.S. District Court of Utah (*Qwest v. Utah Telecommunication Open Infrastructure Agency, et al.*, Case No. 2:05-cv-00471). In the last two weeks, UTOPIA and Qwest have reached a settlement on the claims supported by the factual assertions in Qwest's Comments (the "Settlement Agreement"). In the Settlement Agreement, the parties have mutually agreed to dismiss these claims by Qwest with prejudice

Based on the Settlement Agreement, UTOPIA believes it is inappropriate to continue to dispute specific factual claims before the Utah Public Service Commission (the "Commission"). The comments UTOPIA filed on August 14, 2006 regarding the Standard Contract were meant to bring to the Commission's attention to UTOPIA's actual recent experience dealing with Pole Owners in Utah who (1) have no economic incentive to allocate the resources necessary to sign a pole attachment agreement within a reasonable amount of time, and/or (2) have an economic incentive to delay signing a pole attachment as long as possible in order to gain a competitive advantage.

As UTOPIA has stated before, to the extent a Standard Contract eliminates unnecessary unilateral discretion of the Pole Owner, it will ensure a less contentious process that will allow *both* the Licensee *and* the Pole Owner to save substantial time and resources. Such savings will ultimately lower the cost of telecommunications services for the residents of Utah.

# II. Pending Approval of the Qwest - UTOPIA Pole Attachment Agreement

UTOPIA also requests the Commission approve the Qwest - UTOPIA pole attachment agreement filed on April 14, 2006 with the Commission, and that it be unaffected by any changes the Commission considers to its safe harbor Standard Contract.

DATED this 21 day of August, 2006.

/s/ Joel D. Wright

JOEL D. WRIGHT HOLLAND & HART LLP DAVID J. SHAW UTOPIA Attorneys for UTOPIA

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on the 21 day of August, 2006, an original, five (5) true and

correct copies, and an electronic copy of the foregoing UTOPIA'S COMMENTS TO DRAFT

### STANDARD POLE ATTACHMENT AGREEMENT were hand-delivered to:

Ms. Julie Orchard Commission Secretary Public Service Commission of Utah Heber M. Wells Building, Fourth Floor 160 East 300 South Salt Lake City, Utah 84114 mlivingston@utah.gov

and a true and correct copy, hand-delivered to:

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Patricia E. Schmid, Esq.
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and a true and correct copy mailed, postage prepaid thereon, or emailed in pdf format, to the following:

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