

INVESTMENT PLAN

Qwest's goal is to be a vibrant participant in the competitive communications market. In order to achieve this goal, Qwest will continue to invest in its telecommunications infrastructure to meet ongoing customers' needs.

Requirements Under AFOR Statute

The AFOR Statute, Minn. Stat. §237.761, Subd. 8, requires that a proposed plan include an outline of infrastructure improvement plans. The investment plan must include the following: a description of the planned level of investment in technological or infrastructure improvements; a description of the extent to which the investment plan will make new technology available to customers or will expand availability of current technology to customers; and, a description of the planned deployment of broadband capabilities or fiber optic facilities to schools, libraries, technical colleges, hospitals, colleges and universities, and local governments.

Current Status

Qwest's current Minnesota network is a sophisticated, technologically advanced network in keeping with Qwest's commitment to provide quality communications services.

- Qwest has, over the past 5 years, invested nearly \$2 billion in the state of Minnesota.
- Qwest's commitment to Minnesota has been clearly demonstrated by its achievement of substantial compliance with service quality standards.

APPENDIX C

- 100% of Qwest's switches in Minnesota have digital capabilities or are considered to be functionally equivalent.
- All of Qwest's exchanges have custom calling service and CLASS services available.
- Qwest met its high speed internet deployment commitments pursuant to its merger agreement¹ earlier than the specified deadline. Qwest has continued to deploy high speed internet in a number of wire centers throughout its service area.

Investment Plan

Qwest has made and will continue to make technological changes and enhanced its infrastructure through investments in the extensive use of fiber in interoffice trunking and the loop; the use of higher speed circuit electronics to tap the transmission capacity of fiber; the increased use of Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) technology; technological upgrades to the current copper network; increased availability of high speed internet; increased availability of CLASS service features; and increased availability of voice messaging service.

Qwest will continue to deploy a network designed to meet the future needs of its telecommunications consumers.

¹ *In the Matter of the Merger of the Parent Corporations of Qwest Communications Corporation, LCI International Telecom Corp., USLD Communications, Inc., Phoenix Network, Inc., and US WEST Communications, Inc.*, MPUC Docket No. P-3009, 3052, 5096, 421, 3017/PA-99-1192.

Qwest plans to continue to increase the availability of high speed internet in Minnesota. Consistent with Qwest's deployment of high speed internet services, Qwest continues its commitment to link schools, libraries, technical colleges, hospitals, colleges and universities, and local governments together with technology. Qwest will actively respond to demands from schools, libraries, technical colleges, hospitals, colleges and universities, and local governments in its service area.