

#### 3.6 TROUBLE AND COMPLAINT HANDLING (L.34.2.3.6, M.3.7)

GSA and Agencies expect proactive mitigation and timely resolution of all troubles and complaints. For Networx, Qwest will staff a 24x7x365 Customer Support Office (CSO) using experienced technicians dedicated to providing immediate assistance to Agencies. In keeping with the Spirit of Service™, Qwest understands the need for urgency, technical expertise, and clear, timely communication while handling troubles and complaints.

### 3.6.1 Understanding the Requirement (comp\_req\_id 10351)

In order to maintain high customer satisfaction Qwest will expeditiously process reported troubles and complaints. Qwest has an established Customer Support Office (CSO) whose sole function is to support GSA and Agencies and serves as the main point of contact for all trouble and complaint services.

Qwest will provide Agencies with a streamlined and efficient one-call process at 1-866-GSA-NETWorx (1-866-472-6389) for addressing troubles and complaints via our CSO. Non-domestic Networx subscribing Agencies may call via Qwest's international toll-free service. Our CSO will be staffed 24x7x365 with experienced Customer Service Representatives (CSRs) to provide immediate assistance and resolution for GSA and Agency issues. GSA and Agencies also have 24x7x365 access to the Qwest Control Networx Portal, accessible through our Website, <a href="https://www.gsanetworx.com">www.gsanetworx.com</a>.

The Qwest Team will work with GSA to provide superior trouble and complaint handling service and support, with proven tools, processes, and procedures that GSA and Agencies expect and deserve from their Networx provider.



#### 3.6.1.1 Trouble Handling

At the heart of our CSO strategy is a commitment to . Qwest's objective for trouble handling is to bring to closure any trouble or complaint during the initial customer call. A Networx help desk professional will follow the progress of your call until satisfactory resolution is We will minimize handoffs and wait time, along with taking achieved. ownership of your issue with a commitment to follow through to completion with one service professional as your advocate. Our focus toward one-call resolution is initiated with the detailed description of the problem while completing the report by recording:

- unique reporting number
- pertinent information including a narrative relating to the description of the trouble or complaint
- points of contact
- access requirements
- service type
- other required data fields

Most troubles will be proactively identified, documented in the trouble reporting system, and resolved prior to any impact to Agencies through our network management system's advanced surveillance system. Alarm thresholds will be established to trigger prior to customer-apparent services degradation. Qwest will take all necessary corrective action to ensure continued service quality.

For other troubles, promptly contacting the Qwest CSO will enable our Customer Service Representatives (CSRs) and technicians to quickly respond, engage, and commence the troubleshooting process Agencies will receive timely status on the progress and

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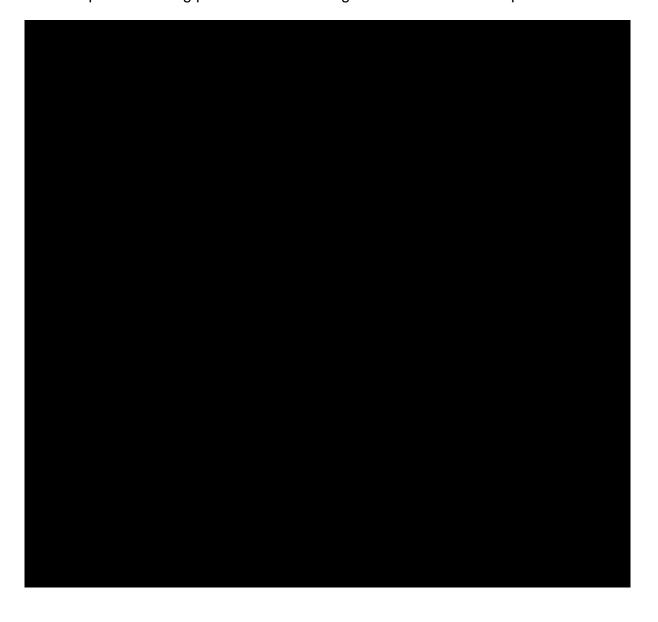


corrective action taken to resolve a trouble. For complex issues, Qwest's
established process will engage the required technical expertise for prompt
trouble resolution,
3.6.1.2 Complaint Handling (comp_req_id 10371)
The Qwest complaint handling process will begin with the CSO, either
via customer driven or internally driven reporting.
complaints will be logged and resolved within seven business days
of receipt



. As part of Qwest's Spirit of Service™ and continuous improvement process, reported troubles and complaints will be analyzed for opportunities to optimize operations or eliminate the trouble to prevent future occurrences.

Regular communication is the key to a successful trouble and complaint handling process. GSA and Agencies will be able to open trouble





tickets or log complaints, obtain status, or generate reports 24x7x365. To contact our CSO directly, Agencies may use any or all of the following options:

- Telephone at 1-866-GSA-NETWorx (1-866-472-6389) for domestically located Agencies or by calling via Qwest's international toll-free service for non-domestically located Agencies
- Qwest Control Networx Portal, accessible through our Website, www.gsanetworx.com
- Fax at 1-800-879-2804
- E-mail at Federal@qwest.com
- Teletypewriter (TTY) for the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities
- United States Postal Service

Qwest will provide ongoing status to the Agency using the same medium used to make the complaint, or by other means as requested. The Qwest Team's strength and depth of experience with proven trouble and complaint handling management, technical, and operational capabilities will meet or exceed, the Government standards. Qwest is dedicated to resolving any Government Networx issues that may arise.

### 3.6.1.3 Response to Narrative Requirements

The following table identifies RFP requirements and associated proposal response locations.

comp_req_id	RFP Section	
10351	C.3.4.2.2.1	
10357	C.3.4.2.2.1	



comp_req_id	RFP Section	
10364	C.3.4.2.2.3	
10370	C.3.4.2.2.4	
10371	C.3.4.2.2.4	

# 3.6.2 Customer Interface Management (L.34.2.3.6) (M.3.7(a)) (comp\_req\_id 10357)

The Qwest CSO is the central point of contact and primary interface for all Networx trouble and complaints. In partnership with the Government Qwest will provide GSA and Agencies a responsive, efficient interface for reporting trouble and complaints to offer unparalleled Networx service and support. We will continuously track the progress, status, and actions taken to resolve an Agency's issue.

The Qwest CSO will generate a ticket with a unique reference number upon receipt of a trouble or complaint report. GSA and Agencies will use this unique reference number to track the problem to resolution through our CSO or through the Qwest Control Networx Portal. Qwest will provide secure, Webbased, real-time access to trouble and complaint reporting information for the Government to obtain ad hoc status updates. Given Qwest's proven track record of expeditiously handling troubles and complaints, GSA and Agencies will receive prompt and dependable trouble and complaint responses.

Qwest classifies and codes trouble tickets as either Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) or non-TSP. TSP codes prioritize service delivery and restoration actions. They will be documented in our databases and systems for priority implementation and restoration. TSP-coded services will take precedence for provisioning and restoration when service requests are generated.

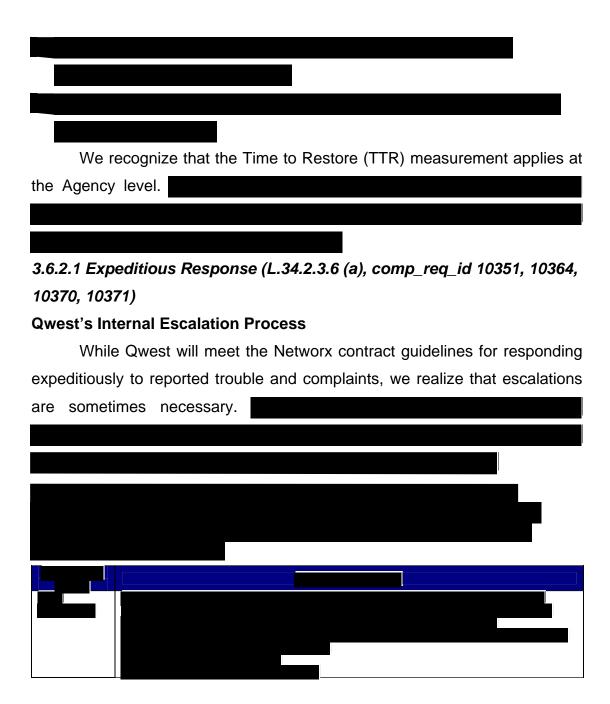


The Portal adds another level of responsiveness to our trouble and complaint management process. Streamlined access to Trouble and Complaint reporting through the Qwest Control Networx Portal will enhance reporting accuracy and efficiency. Customers will be able to initiate and retrieve status on their trouble or complaint record. The Portal will provide:

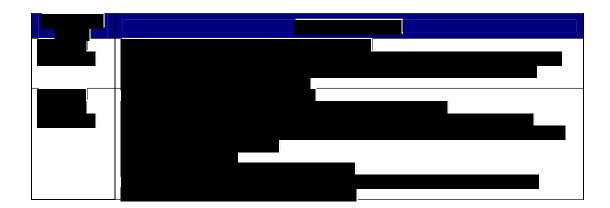
- Trouble and complaint reports and associated resolutions. Reports will be maintained for six years and nine months after Networx contract expiration or termination. Archived data will be provided to the Agency within three business days of request.
- Real-time access to status updates and customer alerts.
- Enhanced GSA and Agency control in managing information.
- Anywhere, anytime, 24x7x365 access.

Qwest's Trouble and Complaint Management team is staffed by
telecommunications personnel with significant experience and leadership in
delivering responsive and rapid trouble and complaint resolution. This team
will provide Agencies with
. They will rapidly diagnose trouble reports, engage
resources as necessary, and expedite any repair actions required. In addition,
this highly trained, experienced staff will address and resolve complaints.
Trouble ticket response and call answer times will be closely managed.
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#### **Qwest's Customer-Driven Escalation Process**

In support of the Qwest Spirit of Service<sup>TM</sup>, Qwest places a high priority on the timeliness and quality of our repair process. We understand the importance of this metric and we are committed to achieving the GSA repair acceptable quality levels (AQL) standards of four hours for non-dispatched and eight hours for dispatched. An integration of our processes, systems, reporting, tracking, and end-to-end management of trouble management centers and field operations has produced consistent success in this area.

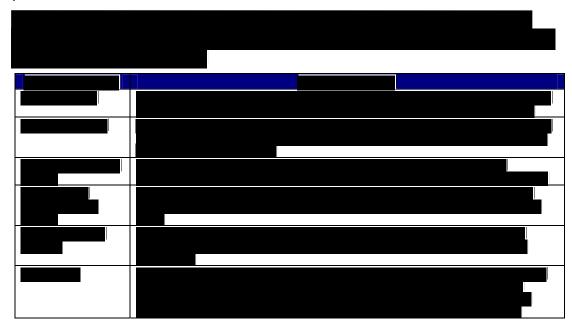


Should unexpected events occur, our staff will collaborate with the Agency to resolve issues in a timely manner. During our trouble and complaint resolution process, every effort will be made to resolve the issue with one call. However, an Agency can always choose to escalate the trouble ticket or complaint to a higher level manager on the Qwest Team. This escalation can easily be initiated through a link provided on the Portal or via a call to the CSO. The escalation process will allow an Agency to access Qwest upper management in support of timely resolution to their issue at



hand. Qwest has a customer-driven escalation policy to resolve those issues as quickly as possible.

To facilitate the customer-driven escalation process (Quest will provide Agencies with contact names of all account team members as well as escalation point of contact lists. GSA and Agencies will use this process for all external customer-initiated escalations.



#### 3.6.2.2 Customer Satisfaction (L.34.2.3.6 (b))

Qwest places the customer first. We listen, we deliver, and we follow through. By carefully listening to Agencies, we will ensure that we clearly understand the problem. We will use time-tested approaches to resolve an issue.

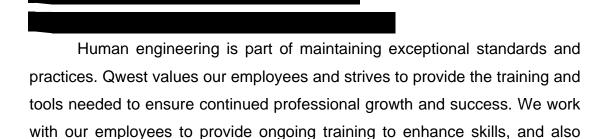
Qwest's Spirit of Service™ coupled with our advanced technology distinguishes Qwest within the telecommunications industry. Our best practices policies and procedures entail ongoing performance management tools, such as customer transaction surveys, and customer interviews. These



tools provide quantitative and qualitative data that will be used to measure, monitor, and track customer satisfaction. The results of our assessment will assist us, in partnership with GSA, to improve our service delivery and support of Networx services to the Government.

#### 3.6.2.3 Maintaining Standards and Practices (L.34.2.3.6(c))

Qwest maintains exceptional standards and practices to ensure that systems, people, and processes continue to improve. Qwest will adhere to the following general guidelines and approach for maintaining standards and practices for the Networx program:



Successful CSO operations require that we establish and maintain well-documented processes and procedures. To this end, we have a focused business practices approach for the Networx program:

afford opportunities to obtain training certifications.





•	Policies and Procedures will be followed	

The Qwest Training organization provides initial and refresher training on Policies and Procedures to the Contractor Program Organization (CPO), CSO and other groups supporting the Networx program. Our training program is designed to reflect best practices in support of the deliverables, customer expectations, and AQLs associated with the Networx program.

## 3.6.2.4 Progress and Status Reporting (L.34.2.3.6(d), comp\_req\_id 10364)

Qwest will inform Agencies on the progress, status, and actions taken to address and resolve troubles and complaints. The Portal will provide Agencies with secure, Web-based, real-time access to trouble and complaint reporting information, ad hoc status updates, and other performance information and data.

GSA and Agencies may submit trouble and complaint issues through various means, including 1-866-GSA-NETWorx (1-866-472-6389), Qwest's Networx Website (www.gsanetworx.com), email, and fax. Specific reporting previously Figure 3.6.1-1 procedures were presented in and Figure 3.6.1-2. Qwest's CSO will respond to a trouble complaint in the same media in which it was received, unless instructed otherwise. The response will include the issue status, information on any known causes, the expected TTR, any pertinent contact information, and confirmation of TSP-coding or circuit priority status.



For an open TSP trouble report, our CSO will provide status updates every hour to the initiator or alternate contact, as authorized by the initiator. For non-TSP, our CSO will provide status updates every two hours.

The Qwest Control Networx Portal's trouble ticket display will provide actions taken to identify, isolate, and resolve customer problems.





The Qwest trouble and complaint management team will manage reports from the initial ticket opening through escalation (when needed) to final problem resolution. Throughout the entire process, this team will interact with Agencies, providing regular status and updates until resolution is confirmed satisfactorily with the customer. When the trouble report is resolved Qwest will provide the initiator of the report with the date, time, reason for the trouble, and the steps taken to resolve the trouble. We will use priority-level handling, expeditious responses, established procedures, and progress tracking to ensure that this team is focused on timely problem resolution.



# 3.6.3 Organization and Management (L.34.2.3.6) (M.3.7 (b)) (comp\_req\_id 10351)

Qwest has a proven, time-tested, troubleshooting organization that will address troubles and complaints with the necessary tools and personnel. We will provide effective management, technical, and operational capabilities to serve and support Agencies. The Qwest CSO is a component of the Qwest CPO. Our CPO will provide focused management, monitoring, and oversight for all Networx functional areas, including our CSO. Qwest's resources, strategy, practices, policies, and procedures will help demonstrate our experienced leadership abilities to deliver competent and compliant trouble and complaint management to the Government. Our trouble and complaint management team, which is part of our CSO, is positioned to address and resolve questions and concerns relating to support areas to include:

- Program control
- Transition planning
- Reporting
- Contracts
- Security
- Sales
- Pricing/Quoting
- Information Technology (IT) operations
- OSS support
- Web portal support
- Networx reliability
- Surveillance
- Tiered technical support
- Repair



- Provisioning
- **SEDs**
- Ordering, Billing, and Inventory

#### 3.6.3.1 Management (L.34.2.3.6)

The Qwest CSO, under the umbrella of the Qwest CPO, will provide focused trouble and complaint handling management and resolution. Within the Qwest CSO, our trouble and complaint management team will support all aspects of problem resolution for Agencies. Our customer service model will facilitate resolution of trouble and complaints





Qwest has a strong heritage of telecommunications experience and service, with more than 40,000 employees worldwide supporting local and long distance services domestically and non-domestically. Qwest has built and owns a state-of-the-art broadband nationwide network. We were the first to deploy Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service

. All of our management, technology, and operations experience will enhance our trouble and complaint handling support on the Networx program.

#### 3.6.3.2 Technical Capabilities (M.3.7(c), comp\_req\_id 10357)

Qwest's demonstrated commitment to providing our Spirit of Service<sup>TM</sup> to the Networx program will result in enhanced technical capabilities that meet or exceed the Government's trouble and complaint handling expectations. For example, Qwest has designed a customer-centric process that will enable GSA and the subscribing Agencies to generate a trouble ticket or register a complaint, via the following communication methods: our Web-based Qwest Control Networx Portal (<a href="https://www.gsanetworx.com">www.gsanetworx.com</a>); telephone (1-866-GSA-NETWorx 1-866-472-6389) for domestic customers; Qwest's international toll-free service (our non-domestic subscribing Agencies will use this toll-free service); email; or fax. Each trouble ticket or complaint generated will have all of the pertinent information regarding the trouble or complaint, such as specific details on the trouble or complaint, contact information and accessibility, and circuit information, if applicable. This format will expedite prompt and accurate responses for GSA and Agencies. Our quick-



response capability will strengthen the interaction and partnership among GSA, Agencies, and Qwest.

Qwest will support the Networx program with a comprehensive and secure Operational Support System (OSS) that performs a wide range of integrated functions including billing, service ordering, customer support, network management, trouble management, inventory management, and program management. Full integration of the Networx OSS is the foundation for the development and delivery of all Networxrelated data; ordering, provisioning, inventory, billing, trouble and complaint handling, repair, reporting, and other information required to meet all Networx system requirements.

Qwest's OSS features systems that support commercial and Government customers.





The Portal provides access to the
back-end OSS. All Networx products and services can be ordered via the
Portal through a series of Web forms and flow-through interfaces. Qwest
continues to design process flows that will generate efficiencies for the
customer and Qwest.
Qwest has deployed a complete set of controls, including access
controls that manage users' access to specific systems based on
Qwest has the systems, tools, processes, and
procedures in place to manage Networx trouble and complaint issues. Qwest
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and connectivity failures through use of redundant designs and routing strategies. Qwest will guard against unauthorized activities identifies some of the tools, applications, processes, and technical capabilities we are using today to isolate, track, and resolve problems. We will employ these proven tools for managing troubles and
and connectivity failures through use of redundant designs and routing strategies. Qwest will guard against unauthorized activities  identifies some of the tools, applications, processes, and technical capabilities we are using today to isolate, track, and resolve problems. We will employ these proven tools for managing troubles and complaints on the Networx program, ensuring seamless continuity of service
and connectivity failures through use of redundant designs and routing strategies. Qwest will guard against unauthorized activities identifies some of the tools, applications, processes, and technical capabilities we are using today to isolate, track, and resolve problems. We will employ these proven tools for managing troubles and





#### 3.6.3.2.1 Trouble Ticket Tools (L.34.2.3.6 (b))

The Qwest CSO will use a trouble ticket platform that will serve as a database and historical record of each trouble call for Agencies. This trouble management system assigns a tracking number, confirms the contact information of the initiator reporting the problem, stores the contact listed in the customer service profile, estimates the time to restore, logs expected intervals for status updates, describes any suspected or known causes related to other events, and confirms the TSP code or non-TSP designation.

Qwest Control Networx Portal.



Qwest's trouble reporting tools will provide a trouble ticket narrative, an analysis log, priority (including TSP), escalations, circuit history, audit trail, trouble by category/type, duration and location, group tickets, performance reports, trends analysis, and summary reports. Once data is logged, the trouble ticket will follow a defined path through Qwest's technical support staff and repair center organizations until resolution. Similarly, once a complaint is reported with the requested information

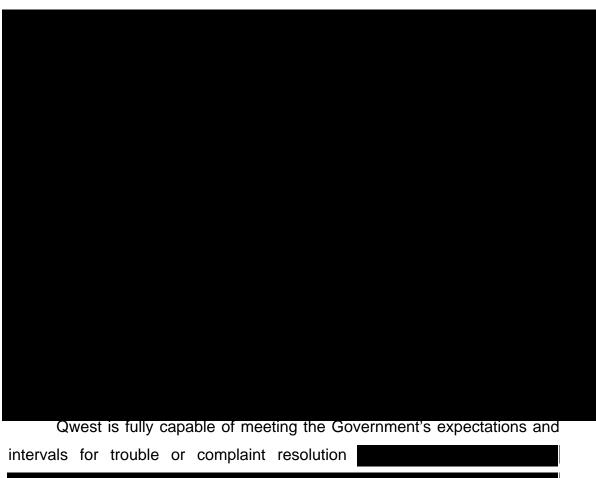
Qwest will quickly engage the appropriate team members, and implement defined escalation processes when necessary. This will ensure timely and comprehensive resolution of the reported issue.

Trouble ticket data will be captured and stored for customer status and reporting

This information will be used by our experienced technicians to resolve the problem and automatically populate status reports accessible to the Agency through the

A Networx trouble ticket screen will identify the ticket tracking number, the circuit identifier code account number, the severity and priority of the trouble, and the problem description. The ticket will be time-stamped. The CSO will be notified if the circuit is TSP-coded. The Qwest Control Networx Portal will provide Agencies with the added advantage of having real-time access to information. Agencies will be restricted from accessing records other than their own while GSA will have access to all records relative to Networx.





#### 3.6.3.2.2 Trouble and Complaint Handling Systems (L.34.2.3.6 (a))

Qwest will use integrated tools to provide the Government with trouble and complaint handling systems that meet or exceed Agency expectations. Qwest has service-specific Network Operations Centers (NOCs) staffed with experienced professionals focused on ensuring service availability and quality. By proactively monitoring, we are able to resolve problems before



they become customer impacting, often avoiding the need for the Agency to generate a trouble ticket or complaint report.

Qwest's geographically diverse NOCs provide support for all Networx services. In the event of any Networx service-affecting problem, our CSO will assign an experienced network technician to troubleshoot, isolate, and resolve the issue. In addition, automated trouble tickets will be generated for all Networx services within 15 minutes of identification by Qwest's trouble management systems. For severe switch and facility outages impacting any Networx services, trouble alarms will be generated and restoration activities will commence immediately.

Qwest's NOCs will be responsible for the trouble management of all Networx services.

Qwest will use a customized version of the processes and systems for trouble and complaint handling that we currently employ for our network performance. Our stable and user-friendly system meets Networx requirements, and offers a time-tested, effective format for tracking and resolving all types of trouble or complaint reports. The Qwest Control Networx Portal will serve as a single focal point for both trouble and complaint reports, and provides the capability to track progress, receive status, and obtain informational updates.

Troubles and complaints will be addressed following similar processes. Once the report is entered into the Qwest Control Networx Portal, links to repair systems will initiate all downstream processes engaging NOC and field operations as appropriate. This common system and process will provide end-to-end tracking to ensure all handoffs are seamless. Qwest's



will also be connected to this trouble management system for trouble ticket status reporting and monitoring. Agencies can track status through completion by using the report update feature in the Portal. will provide the Networx PMO and authorized Agencies secure access to information, along with database access to trouble and complaint reports. Qwest's Portal makes Agency interaction on the trouble and complaint process easy to use, by enhancing Agency controls for opening, tracking, and resolving trouble and complaint issues.

Qwest's trouble and complaint systems and process meet all Networx requirements. The Qwest trouble and complaint handling and reporting system is geared toward problem resolution within committed timeframes. Our goal is to meet or exceed resolution commitments, keep the Agency informed throughout the process, and track results regardless of whether the trouble is on Qwest's or a Team member's network, domestic or nondomestic.

Qwest operates and manages a global network with customers and points of presence throughout the world. Qwest has integrated process, procedures, and systems for trouble management. These management tools are used for handling, reporting, and resolution, regardless of where the trouble is located. For non-domestic trouble and complaint reporting and handling, Qwest offers GSA and Agencies:

 Access to the same expert Qwest technicians via Toll-Free Arrangements or via the Portal 24x7x365





 Status updates via the Portal, telephone, or other customer-preferred methods



- For trouble resolution in non-domestic countries:
  - The capability to dispatch a technician to any Qwest location anywhere in the world, 24x7x365
  - Similar trouble isolation processes. The Qwest NOC works with international Qwest engineers and technicians, and local, lastmile providers
    - to determine type of repair needed
  - Qwest NOC dispatches non-domestic Qwest technicians, contractors or international service providers for repair within the AQL window

#### 3.6.3.2.3 Reports

Qwest will report on all trouble and complaint data pertaining to performance measurements. Qwest will maintain a history of the reported time of a trouble or complaint, the identified Agency that reported the trouble or complaint, the service impacted, the service's unique billing identifier, the root cause of the problem, the resolution action, the time it was resolved, and the time the record was closed out. We will maintain an archive of these reports, as required.

Once a trouble report or complaint has been resolved, the Qwest CSO will contact the initiator and provide the date, time, and nature of the trouble



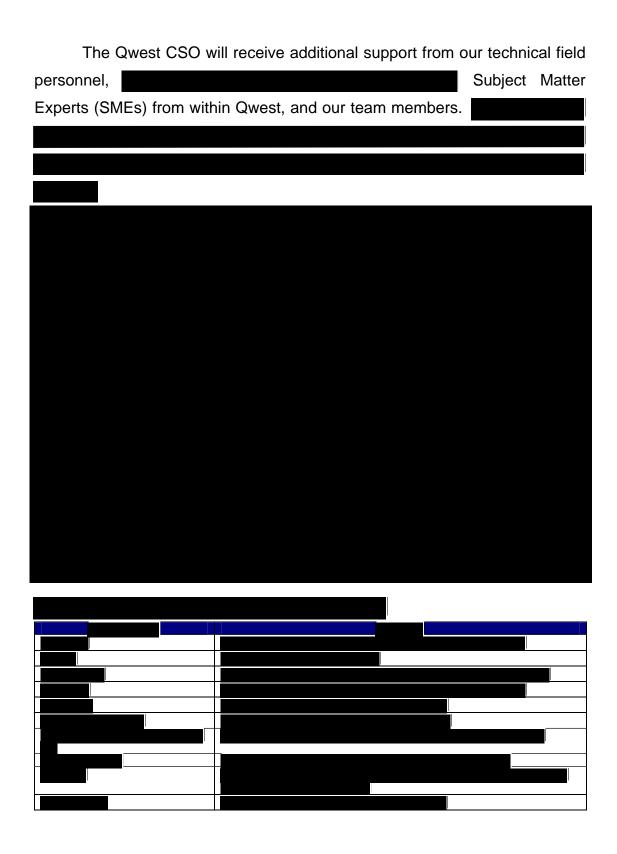
or complaint, and the applicable resolution. The trouble ticket or complaint report will be closed once the service has been restored and the customer agrees that the issue has been satisfactorily resolved. Complaints will be resolved within seven days of receipt.

#### 3.6.3.3 Operational Capabilities (L.34.2.3.6)

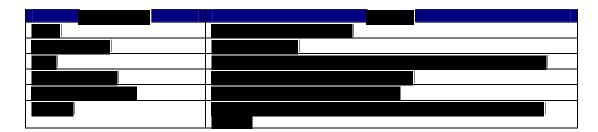
The Qwest CSO will include operations and engineering technical support staff who possess the expertise in specific technologies Our mission is to provide prompt support and resolution to GSA and Agencies.











Qwest's technology, as well as our operations, and management practices will consistently meet the Government's expectations, as we have done in the past on our Government contracts.

#### 3.6.3.4 Strategies (L.34.2.3.6)

Qwest's trouble and complaint-handling strategy is to identify, isolate, and resolve troubles and complaints as expeditiously as possible. Based upon lessons learned, we have developed proven processes that guide sound decision-making, prompt repair, and customer satisfaction by deploying the best specialist, using the right tools, and adhering to sound policies and procedures. We will minimize events by managing our network and operational resources. If an issue should occur, we will:

- Automatically generate a trouble ticket
- Proactively notify the appropriate Agency representative
- Begin restoration immediately

We will proactively monitor and initiate repair, which is often transparent to a customer.

Qwest will take this proactive approach and attention to detail by analyzing, repairing, and resolving all trouble and complaint issues as soon as we detect a potential Networx problem.

Qwest will use our CSO as the first line of defense. However, we will draw upon the technical strengths, work experiences, and resources of the



entire Qwest Team to meet or exceed, the performance parameters and requirements of the Networx contract. Qwest provides a wide variety of services, from legacy dial services to cutting-edge packet-based and optical transport technologies. Each of these services has associated Operational Support Systems (OSS) that are required to provide and support them.



Qwest Communications International, Inc. merged with US West
Communications in 2000 and has already realized operational and customer
benefits as a result of systems consolidation.

#### 3.6.3.5 Practices, Policies, Processes, and Procedures (L.34.2.3.6)

Qwest maintains specific service processes and work procedures for trouble and complaint activities. We will apply repair and restoration processes, shown previously in Figure 3.6.1-1, to meet the Networx program's requirements for resolving problems expeditiously.

Qwest will follow defined procedures when a trouble ticket is opened or a complaint is logged. The following steps provide an overview of the procedures:

- Notify Generate a tracking (reference) ticket or complaint log with all applicable information, with a time stamp for the event.
- Sectionalize Identify the responsible network, impacted service, technology, or area of complaint. Quickly identify the stakeholder's ownership for the reported incident for prompt solution.
- 3. Isolate Identify the exact point of the trouble or complaint with the applicable department, owner, or resolution manager.
- 4. Restore Resolve the trouble or complaint.



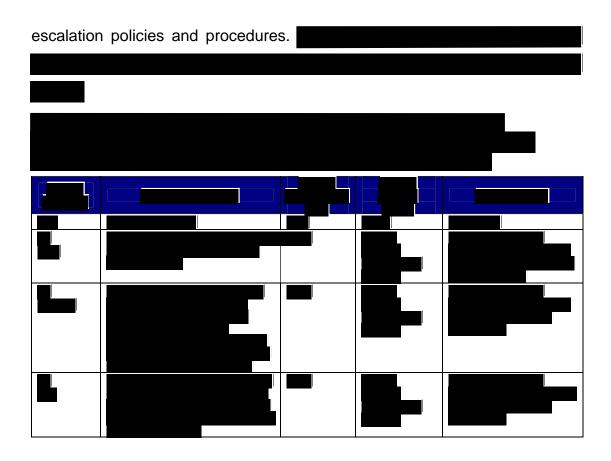
- 5. Verify Obtain the Agency's confirmation that the problem has been resolved satisfactorily.
- 6. Prevent Ensure that action has been taken to prevent recurrence.
- 7. Record Record and archive the event for the respective Agencies.

Once a trouble or complaint ticket is opened, the Agency will be asked to identify the services being affected; provide the Qwest circuit identification, a telephone number, and a remote contact name and number for testing; and, determine the problem's level of severity (TSP or non-TSP). In response, Qwest will provide to Agencies:

- Trouble ticket tracking number or complaint record number
- Confirmation of the contact information for the person reporting the problem (including name, telephone number, and email address), the contact listed in the customer profile for that service, or an alternate contact the reporter designates
- Explanation of the problem to the Agency contact listed for that service, or an alternate contact, as requested
- Estimated time to resolve the problem
- Expected intervals for status updates
- Suspected or known causes or correlation to other events, as known at the time
- Confirmation of TSP code or non-TSP designation
- Identification of critical or routine service level
- Method of contact if the Agency requires additional information

Qwest will work with Agencies to help guide and ensure the proper use and coding of TSP services, and to ensure that these codes remain with the services during their entire lifecycle. We will update Agencies every hour on TSP-designated service restoration process. We will apply our internal





Qwest uses the same approach to meeting Trouble and Complaint Handling requirements for optional services as we use for mandatory services.

### **3.6.4 Summary**

Qwest is committed to working in partnership with GSA and Agencies to provide Government-focused customer support. The Qwest Control Networx Portal and our toll-free hotline will provide customers access to real-time status reports to ensure successful Networx contract trouble and complaint handling performance.

Qwest will demonstrate quality through performance with our worldwide 24x7x365 accessible Networx CSO. Our industry-standard



processes, procedures, and best practices will maintain consistent performance and ensure Agency satisfaction.