



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
621 Woodland Square Loop S.E., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160 • www.utc.wa.gov

September 6, 2022

**NOTICE REQUIRING STAFF RESPONSE
(By Friday, September 16, 2022)**

RE: *In the Matter of the Penalty Assessment Against the CenturyLink Companies in the Amount of \$226,600,*
Docket UT-220397

TO ALL PARTIES:

On January 9, 2014, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission entered Order 04, Final Order Approving Settlement Agreements and Establishing Alternative Form of Regulation (Order 04) in Docket UT-130477. Order 04 approved an alternative form of regulation plan which required, among other things, that CenturyLink provide notice to the Commission of any changes to its flat-rated stand-alone residential rates at the same time the company notifies its customers.

On June 1, 2022, the Commission issued a notice of penalties (Penalty Assessment) in Docket UT-220397 against Qwest Corporation; CenturyTel of Washington; CenturyTel of Inter Island; CenturyTel of Cowiche; and United Telephone Company of the Northwest (collectively, the Companies) in the amount of \$226,600 for 2,266 violations of the rate change notification provision of Order 04.

On June 30, 2022, the Companies filed an Application for Mitigation (Application), admitting the violations and requesting that the Commission decide based on the information provided. In the Application, the Companies state that the failure to notify the Commission was the result of staffing difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Companies further state that the failure to notify did not harm or materially affect Washington consumers because the Commission does not have authority to intervene with the rate changes. The Companies address several issues raised in the Penalty Assessment in detail.

To assist the Commission in evaluating the Company's Application, the Commission requires Staff to file a response in the form of a letter indicating its position regarding the Application no later than **5 p.m. on Friday, September 16, 2022.**

THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That Staff must file a response to the Companies' Application for Mitigation no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, September 16, 2022.

AMANDA MAXWELL
Executive Director and Secretary