

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

JOINT PETITION OF MASHELL)	DOCKETS UT-131294, UT-131292,
TELECOM, INC. DBA RAINIER)	UT-131322
CONNECT AND CENTURYTEL OF)	
WASHINGTON, INC. DBA)	ORDER 01
CENTURYLINK FOR ADJUSTMENT)	
OF EXCHANGE BOUNDARIES)	
)	ORDER CONSOLIDATING
)	DOCKETS AND GRANTING JOINT
)	PETITION TO ADJUST EXCHANGE
)	BOUNDARIES ON LESS THAN
)	STATUTORY NOTICE
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On July 11, 2013, Mashell Telecom, Inc., dba Rainier Connect (Rainier Connect) and CenturyTel of Washington, Inc., dba Century Link (CenturyLink), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a joint petition, Docket UT-131294, asking the Commission to adjust the boundaries of Rainier Connect’s Eatonville exchange and CenturyLink’s Ashford exchange. The exchanges of both of these companies are contiguous with each other for a portion of the companies’ local exchange boundaries. On July 17, 2013, an amended joint petition was filed superceding the original joint petition revising the Ashford exchange map filed in the original joint petition.

- 2 Both companies also ask the Commission to make these local exchange boundary changes on less than statutory notice, to accommodate Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirements for Commission certification to the FCC by August 1, 2013. Rainier Connect’s request for less than statutory notice is Docket UT-131292, and CenturyLink’s request for less than statutory notice is Docket UT-131322.

- 3 The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has promulgated a requirement for either the Commission or Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILEC) to submit electronic maps of the ILEC’s local exchange study areas.¹ As part of that process, the

¹ *Connect America Fund; High-Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 05-337, Report and Order, 27 FCC Rcd 13528 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2012); Order of Reconsideration, 28 FCC Rcd 1389, (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2013).

Commission certified both companies' electronic local exchange study area maps to the FCC. In conformance with the FCC's published timeline, the study area maps certified by the Commission were filed with the FCC on or before June 28, 2013.² The FCC plans for future revisions to the initial certifications.

DISCUSSION

- 4 The Commission developed study area maps for Rainier Connect and CenturyLink. On May 17, 2013, the Commission provided the companies an opportunity to review the maps. In reviewing the information developed by the Commission from the companies' tariff maps, Rainier Connect discovered that it has been serving customers physically located in CenturyLink's Ashford exchange.
- 5 Based on Rainier Connect's records, 14 such customers have been served by this company for approximately 18 years. While the records do not explain why service was provided by Rainier Connect rather than CenturyLink, it is safe to assume that because of the difficult terrain and the location of these customers, it was more cost effective for Rainier Connect to provide service to the customers.
- 6 Rainier Connect and CenturyLink cooperatively decided to change the boundary line between the Eatonville and Ashford exchanges for the 14 customers served by Rainier Connect. As a result of the new exchange boundary, the 14 customers previously included within the Ashford exchange are now included within the Eatonville exchange.
- 7 Rainier Connect filed a tariff requesting the change be effective on less than statutory notice in Docket UT-131292, dated July 11, 2013, and CenturyLink filed a tariff requesting the change be effective on less than statutory notice in Docket UT-131322, dated July 16, 2013, to adjust their exchange study area maps as required in WAC 480-80-102(5)(b)(i)(D), consistent with the relief sought by the Joint Petition. The FCC has stated that expedited changes to study area boundaries will be accepted only if filed by August 1, 2013.

² *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Procedures and Deadlines for Submission of Study Area Boundaries*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 05-337, Public Notice, DA 13-456 (Wireline Comp. Bur. rel. March 18, 2013).

8 Staff has reviewed the filings and recommends that the Commission grant the petitions for the changes to the local exchange boundaries for both companies, and permit the changes to become effective on less than statutory notice, as requested by both companies.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 9 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including telecommunications companies. [RCW 80.01.040](#), [RCW 80.04](#), [RCW 80.08](#), [RCW 80.12](#), [RCW 80.16](#) and [RCW 80.36](#).
- 10 (2) Rainier Connect and CenturyLink are telecommunications and public service companies subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 11 (3) [WAC 480-07-370\(1\)\(b\)\(i\)](#) allows companies to file a petition, including a joint petition for change in exchange boundaries as filed by Rainier Connect and CenturyLink.
- 12 (4) Pursuant to [RCW 80.36.230](#), the Commission has the authority to establish exchange areas for telecommunications companies, and [WAC 480-80-102\(5\)\(b\)\(i\)\(D\)](#) requires telecommunications companies not classified as competitive to file Exchange Area Maps as part of their tariffs.
- 13 (5) The Commission agrees with Staff's recommendation in Dockets UT-131294, UT-131292, UT-131322, including related tariffs and exchange maps, and finds that the joint petition is in the public interest and should be approved on less than statutory notice.
- 14 (6) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on July 26, 2013.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 15 (1) Mashell Telecom, Inc., dba Rainier Connect and CenturyTel of Washington, Inc.,
dba CenturyLink's expedited joint petition to adjust exchange boundaries is
GRANTED.
- 16 (2) This Order shall not affect the Commission's authority over rates, services,
accounts, valuations, estimates, or determination of costs, on any matters that may
come before it. This Order granting the joint petition shall not be construed as an
agreement to any estimate or determination of costs, or any valuation of property
claimed or asserted.
- 17 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Mashell
Telecom, Inc., dba Rainier Connect and CenturyTel of Washington, Inc., dba
CenturyLink, to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public
interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective July 26, 2013.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary