

[Service Date December 22, 2010]

December 22, 2010

**NOTICE PERMITTING ORAL REBUTTAL AND SURREBUTTAL
TESTIMONY REGARDING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS; REQUIRING
ISSUE STATEMENTS; PERMITTING CLOSING ARGUMENTS; AND
RESCHEDULING POST-HEARING BRIEFING DEADLINE
(Post-hearing briefs due Tuesday, January 18, 2011, by 3:00 p.m.)**

Re: *In the Matter of the Joint Application of Qwest Communications International Inc. and CenturyTel, Inc. For Approval of Indirect Transfer of Control of Qwest Corporation, Qwest Communications Company LLC, and Qwest LD Corp., Docket UT-100820*

TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD:

On October 21, 2010, Qwest Communications International Inc. (QCII), and CenturyTel, Inc. (collectively with QCII, Joint Applicants) and 360networks (USA) inc. (360networks) filed a Joint Memorandum in Support of Settlement Agreement and Motion for Withdrawal of 360networks (360networks Settlement) with the Commission. Joint Applicants and 360networks indicate that they will present one or more witnesses to testify in support of the 360networks Settlement at hearing.

On November 10, 2010, Integra Telecom, Inc., as well as its affiliates, and Joint Applicants filed a Petition for Consideration and Approval of Settlement and Narrative in Support of Settlement (Integra Settlement). Joint Applicants and Integra assert that each will offer a witness at hearing in support of the Integra Settlement.

Pursuant to WAC 480-07-740(2)(c), parties not signatories to the settlement agreements have the right to present evidence and argument opposing the proposal. As a result, parties opposing the Settlements shall be allowed to present oral

testimony and evidence at hearing in the form of oral rebuttal testimony. Likewise, parties to the Settlements shall be permitted to offer oral surrebuttal testimony to any oral rebuttal testimony. Oral rebuttal will be strictly limited to the content of the Settlements and documents filed in support thereof. Oral surrebuttal will be strictly limited to those issues raised during rebuttal. Any additional settlement agreements received by the Commission prior to hearing will be afforded the same treatment.

With the narrowing of contested issues via settlements, the Commission concludes that the non-settling parties shall present oral issue statements at the start of the evidentiary hearing informing the Commission of the issues that remain in dispute.

Further, the Commission will allow the parties the opportunity to present closing arguments at the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing. The time limit for closing argument will be established at hearing. The Commission has set aside a maximum of two hours to hear all parties' closing arguments.

Finally, in Order 02, the Commission established a deadline of February 7, 2011, for the parties to file simultaneous post-hearing briefs. However, the Commission now believes that briefing can be accomplished on an abbreviated schedule and focus on limited issues selected by the Commission. At the close of the evidentiary hearing, the Commission will inform the parties of the issues on which they should focus in their briefs. Since these issues will have been narrowed significantly, the Commission reschedules post-hearing briefing to January 18, 2011.

THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That simultaneous post-hearing briefs in this matter are due January 18, 2011, by 3:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Marguerite E. Friedlander, at 360-664-1285, or by e-mail at mfriedla@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

MARGUERITE E. FRIEDLANDER
Administrative Law Judge