



- 3 Staff agrees that both it and CenturyTel initially overlooked the difference in the scope of the Clearwater and Neah Bay/Clallam Bay local calling areas. However, Staff opposes the request for reconsideration, arguing that the effect on local calling areas is incidental to the rate center consolidation plan. Staff also noted there is virtually no impact on the revenues of Century Tel because there is limited calling between the rate centers of Clearwater, Neah Bay and Clallam Bay. Staff also noted the operational aspect that all the subject areas are currently served by the host switch in the Forks rate center. Staff asserted the consolidation plan was adopted to reduce inefficient use of telephone prefixes rather than to address an inadequacy in any community's local calling area, so the local calling area rule should not be applied nor should this decision be used as precedent for future requests of local calling areas.
- 4 The only way to maintain the toll designation on calls between Clearwater and Neah Bay/Clallam Bay would be to maintain three distinct rate centers on the western Olympic Peninsula when one would otherwise be sufficient. Upon entry of a competitor this would require the issuance of three prefixes, 30,000 numbers rather than 10,000 numbers. There is no revenue impact to Century Tel or its customers resulting from the consolidation of the rate centers and resulting expansion of local calling areas. Continuation of three rate centers when there is no cost or revenue loss would undermine the Commission's efforts to reduce wasteful use of telephone prefixes and thereby prolong the life of area code 360. In this effort, the expansion of the local calling area is reasonable and should not be used as precedence for requesting expansion of other local calling areas in dissimilar situations.
- 5 The Commission received no other comments on the matter.

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including telecommunications companies.  
*RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 80.04 RCW; and Chapter 80.36 RCW.*
- 7 (2) Century Tel is a telecommunications company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 8 (3) Century Tel requested reconsideration of the Commission's earlier decision to consolidate Clearwater, Clallam Bay and Neah Bay into the Forks rate center.
- 9 (4) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 8, 2003.
- 10 (5) Having considered the comments of Staff and CenturyTel, the Commission concludes that the request to overturn the consolidation of Clearwater, Clallam Bay and Neah Bay into the Forks rate center should be denied.

## ORDER

- 11 The Commission denies the request of CenturyTel of Washington, Inc., to modify the decision to consolidate the rate centers of Clearwater, Clallam Bay and Neah Bay into the Forks rate center.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

## APPENDIX A

## Proposed Rate Center Consolidations

Current Rate Centers	Consolidated Rate Centers
CURTIS PE ELL	CURTIS
ELMA MCCLEARY	ELMA
CLALLAMBAY CLEARWATER FORKS NEAH BAY	FORKS
HANSVILLE KINGSTON	KINGSTON
HUMPTULIPS LKQUINAULT	LKQUINAULT
CHINOOK LONG BEACH OCEAN PARK	LONG BEACH
GLENOMA MINERAL MORTON PACKWOOD RANDLE	MORTON
BLAKELY IS EASTSOUND FRIDAY HBR LOPEZ	SAN JUAN
RAYMOND SOUTH BEND	SOUTH BEND