

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Request of	)	DOCKET UT-063052
	)	
ASOTIN TELEPHONE COMPANY (TDS),	)	ORDER 01
CENTURYTEL OF COWICHE, INC.,	)	
CENTURYTEL OF INTER ISLAND, INC.,	)	
CENTURYTEL OF WASHINGTON, INC.,	)	
ELLENSBURG TELEPHONE, D/B/A	)	
FAIRPOINT COMMUNICATIONS, HAT	)	
ISLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY, HOOD	)	
CANAL TELEPHONE CO., INC., D/B/A HOOD	)	
CANAL COMMUNICATIONS, INLAND	)	
TELEPHONE COMPANY, KALAMA	)	
TELEPHONE COMPANY, LEWIS RIVER	)	
TELEPHONE COMPANY (TDS), MASHELL	)	
TELECOM, INC., D/B/A RAINIER CONNECT,	)	
M & L ENTERPRISES, INC., MCDANIEL	)	
TELEPHONE COMPANY (TDS), PEND	)	
OREILLE TELEPHONE COMPANY, PIONEER	)	
TELEPHONE COMPANY, ST. JOHN CO-	)	
OPERATIVE TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH	)	
COMPANY, TENINO TELEPHONE COMPANY,	)	
THE TOLEDO TELEPHONE CO., INC.,	)	
WESTERN WAHKIAKUM COUNTY	)	
TELEPHONE COMPANY D/B/A WAHKIAKUM	)	ORDER GRANTING THE
WEST, WHIDBEY TELECOM, YCOM	)	REQUEST FOR AN
NETWORKS, INC., D/B/A FAIRPOINT	)	EXTENSION TO FILE
COMMUNICATIONS FOR AN EXTENSION	)	CERTIFICATIONS AND
TO FILE CERTIFICATIONS AND REPORTS	)	REPORTS REQUIRED
REQUIRED UNDER WAC 480-123	)	UNDER WAC 480-123
.....	)	

1     ***Synopsis:** Numerous small eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) requested an extension of time to file certifications and reports required by WAC 480-123. The Commission decides to grant their requests.*

## BACKGROUND

- 2 The Commission adopted new rules for certification of ETCs on June 28, 2006. The rules become effective July 29, and the first reports and certifications required by the new rules are due on July 31.
- 3 The request made by the ETCs is that the CenturyTel companies and TDS companies be granted an extension of the filing requirement from July 31 to August 4. All other requesting companies seek an extension of the filing requirement to August 11.
- 4 The ETCs making the request must also complete their National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) report, termed NECA-1, by July 31. The NECA-1 report is used by the Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) to calculate the amount of federal high-cost support each certified ETC will receive in future fund disbursements.
- 5 These ETCs receive in excess of \$45 million annually from the federal high-cost fund. ETCs will continue to receive federal support only if the Commission certifies to the Federal Communications Commission that these ETCs will use the funds only for the purposes intended under 47 U.S.C. § 254.

## DISCUSSION

- 6 In the request, the ETCs state that they have been diligently analyzing the requirements of the new rules and making preparations to file the required reports and certifications. However, the ETCs state they can not meet the July 31 filing deadline. The ETCs provide three reasons for the inability to meet the deadline.
- 7 The request states that some of the ETCs cannot meet the deadline because they have reports due in multiple states and that the same staff is responsible for preparation of the multiple reports.
- 8 The request states that all of the ETCs are occupied completing the NECA-1 report by July 31. The ETCs state that because of the timing of the adoption of new ETC certification rules the companies were unable to plan to complete both the NECA-1

report and ETC certification by July 31. (The ETCs state they expect to be in a position to plan to complete both the NECA-1 form and meet Commission deadlines in 2007.)

- 9 The request states that many of the small ETCs lack sufficient staff to prepare all of the reports and so they rely on outside consultants. The request states there is a limited number of available outside consultants and those consultants are occupied completing NECA-1 reports and the consultants' time is not available to meet both July 31 deadlines.
- 10 The request states that the companies are treating the Commission's new rules very seriously. Notwithstanding, companies state the requirement to complete the NECA-1 report coupled with the short time between adoption of Commission issued ETC rules and the filing date have necessitated their request for an extension.
- 11 In response to the reasons given by the ETCs making the request, the Commission staff states that it has discussed the matter with a representative of the ETCs and concluded there is a genuine need for the extensions based on the reasons provided in the request.
- 12 The Commission Staff has also concluded that the extensions will not preclude it from completing the work necessary to review the certifications and reports in a timely manner.
- 13 The Commission Staff expects the extension to result in the benefit that ETCs will submit, at the later time, better organized and more complete certifications and reports.

### **SUMMARY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

From the foregoing, the Commission finds and concludes:

- 14 (1) ETCs have been asked to complete new certifications and reports on relatively short notice.
- 15 (2) The reasons presented to support the ETCs' requested extensions of time demonstrate good cause exists to grant the requests.

- 16 (3) Granting the extensions is in the public interest because the result will be better organized and more complete reports and certifications that will lessen the Commission's workload.

**ORDER**

- 17 (1) The request of the CenturyTel companies for an extension is granted and they must file not later than August 4, 2006.
- 18 (2) The request of the TDS companies for an extension is granted and they must file not later than August 4, 2006.
- 19 (3) The request of the other ETCs for an extension is granted and they must file not later than August 11.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective July 26, 2006.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner