

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

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET UT-110993
)	
CENTURYTEL OF WASHINGTON, INC., D/B/A CENTURYLINK;)	ORDER 01
CENTURYTEL OF COWICHE, INC. D/B/A CENTURYLINK;)	
CENTURYTEL OF INTER ISLAND, INC., D/B/A CENTURYLINK; AND)	
UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY OF THE NORTHWEST, D/B/A)	
CENTURYLINK,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
Seeking Approval of Alternative Measurement or Reporting Format as allowed by WAC 480-120-439(12))	ORDER APPROVING ALTERNATIVE MEASUREMENT OR REPORTING FORMAT
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 14, 2011, in Docket UT-100820, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) approved CenturyTel, Inc.’s¹ (CenturyLink’s or Company’s) indirect acquisition of Qwest Corporation (Qwest), Qwest LD Corp, and Qwest Communications Company LLC subject to the Company’s acceptance of the conditions the Commission adopted in its order, including but not limited to the terms of five multiparty Settlement Agreements. Condition 17 of the Settlement Agreement between CenturyLink and Commission Staff provides, in pertinent part, that, “CenturyLink will file, and Commission Staff will support, a petition for waiver of WAC 480-120-439(4) seeking permission to report on orders completed rather than on orders taken, which would constitute treatment similar to that granted Qwest in Docket UT-030704.
- 2 On May 31, 2011, CenturyLink filed with the Commission a petition requesting exemption from WAC 480-120-439(4) and approval of an alternative method of reporting under WAC 480-120-439(12).

¹ CenturyTel, Inc. is the parent company of CenturyTel of Washington, Inc., d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel of Cowiche, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel of Inter Island, Inc., d/b/a CenturyLink, and United Telephone Company of the Northwest, d/b/a CenturyLink.

- 3 WAC 480-120-439(4) establishes reporting intervals for installation or activation of basic service while WAC 480-120-439(12) enables companies to propose an alternative format of the service quality reports if it is consistent with the requirement of WAC 480-120-439.
- 4 In its petition, CenturyLink cites that it is unable to provide an accurate and reliable report based on orders taken as required by WAC 480-120-439(4).² In addition, the Company is unable to modify its installation report from orders completed to orders taken without incurring extraordinary expense with reprogramming its mechanized systems and processes.
- 5 Commission Staff has reviewed the petition and recommends granting CenturyLink's request for an alternative measurement or reporting format for WAC 480-120-439(4).

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 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.*
- 7 (2) CenturyLink is engaged in the business of providing telecommunications services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 8 (3) Under WAC 480-120-439(12), the Commission may approve a telecommunications company's request to provide an alternative measurement or reporting format for any of the service quality reports required by WAC 480-120-439.³

² In its petition, CenturyLink indicated that it is currently reporting installation or activation of basic service data in the alternative format requested here due to the inability to report in strict accordance with the rule.

³ The petitioning company must provide evidence that it cannot reasonably provide the measurement or reports; the alternative measurement or reporting format will provide a reasonably accurate measurement of the company's performance to the substantive performance standard; and the ability of the commission and other parties to enforce compliance will not be significantly impaired by the use of the alternative.

- 9 (4) CenturyLink's petition came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 30, 2011.
- 10 (5) After reviewing the petition CenturyLink filed in Docket UT-110993 on May 31, 2011, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the petition for an alternative measurement or reporting format under WAC 480-120-439(12) should be approved.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) The petition of CenturyTel of Washington, Inc., d/b/a CenturyLink; CenturyTel of Cowiche, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel of Inter Island, Inc., d/b/a CenturyLink, and United Telephone Company of the Northwest, d/b/a CenturyLink for approval of an alternative measurement or reporting format under WAC 480-120-439(12) for reporting requirements in WAC 480-120-439(4) is approved.
- 12 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and CenturyTel of Washington, Inc., d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel of Cowiche, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel of Inter Island, Inc., d/b/a CenturyLink, and United Telephone Company of the Northwest, d/b/a CenturyLink to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective June 30, 2011.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner