

**2022 ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER CERTIFICATION
REPORT AS REQUIRED BY WAC 480-123-060, WAC 480-123-070,
AND WAC 480-123-080
CENTURYLINK COMMUNICATIONS, LLC d/b/a Lumen Technologies Group**

CenturyLink Communications, LLC d/b/a Lumen Technologies Group (“Company”) hereby submits the following report in accordance with WAC 480-123-060, WAC 480-123-070, and WAC 480-123-080.

WAC 480-123-060 Annual certification of eligible telecommunications carriers.

(1) Each ETC seeking certification of the ETC's use of federal high-cost funds pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314 must request certification by July 1st each year. The ETC must certify that all federal high-cost support provided to the ETC within Washington State was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. The certification must be submitted by a company officer in the manner required by RCW 9A.72.085.

Response: Certification attached as Exhibit A.

(2): The commission will certify an ETC's use of federal high-cost universal service fund support, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314 only if the ETC complies with the requirements in WAC 480-123-070, and the ETC demonstrates that it will use federal high-cost funds only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended through the requirements of WAC 480-123-080.

Response: See responses to WAC 480-123-070 and WAC 480-123-080 below.

WAC 480-123-070 Annual certifications and reports.

Not later than July 1st of each year, every ETC that receives federal support from any category in the federal high-cost fund must certify or report as described in this section. The certifications and reports are for activity related to Washington State in the period January 1st through December 31st of the previous year. A company officer must submit the certifications in the manner required by RCW 9A.72.085.

(1) Report on use of federal funds and benefits to customers.

(a) The report must provide a substantive description of investments made and expenses paid with support from the federal high-cost fund.

The report must include the company’s gross capital expenditures and operating expenses made with federal high-cost support received by the ETC in the preceding calendar year along with a description of major projects and affected exchanges. A rate-of-return

wireline ETC must also include a copy of its NECA-1 report for the preceding calendar year.

Response: The Company did not receive federal high cost funding in 2021. Therefore, this was not applicable.

(b) Every ETC must provide a substantive description of the benefits to consumers that resulted from the investments and expenses reported pursuant to (a) of this subsection.

Response: The Company did not receive federal high cost funding in 2021. Therefore, this was not applicable.

(2) Local service outage report.

(a) The report must include detailed information on any outage in the service area (during the prior calendar year) of at least thirty minutes in duration in which the ETC owns, operates, leases, or otherwise utilizes facilities, that potentially affect:

- (i) At least ten percent of the end users; or
- (ii) A 911 special facility, as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 4.5(e)

(b) Specifically, the eligible telecommunications carrier's annual report must include information detailing:

- (i) The date and time of onset and duration of the outage;
- (ii) A brief description of the outage and its resolution;
- (iii) The particular services affected;
- (iv) The geographic areas affected by the outage;
- (v) Steps taken to prevent a similar situation in the future; and
- (vi) The number of customers affected.

Response: The Company did not receive federal high cost funding in 2021. The build-out and enablement in the ETC service areas have not been completed. Therefore, there were not outages to report.

(3) Report on failure to provide service. The report must include the number of requests for service from potential customers within its designated service area that were unfulfilled during the prior calendar year. The ETC must also detail how it attempted to provide service to those potential customers.

Response: There were no unfilled requests for service in 2021.

(4) Report on complaints per one thousand connections (fixed or mobile). The report must provide separate totals for the number of complaints that the ETC's customers made to the Federal Communications Commission and the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Washington. The ETC must also report the number of consumer complaints in each general category (for example, billing disputes, service quality).

Response: The Company did not receive federal high cost support in 2021 and is still in the process of determining how to meet the build-out obligations. Therefore, there were no complaints in the designated federal funded areas.

(5) Certification of compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. Certify that it met substantially the applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules found in WAC 480-123-030 (1)(h).

Response: Certification attached as Exhibit A.

(6) Certification of ability to function in emergency situations. Certify that it had the ability to function in emergency situations based on continued adherence to the standards found in WAC 480-123-030 (1)(g).

Response: Certification attached as Exhibit A.

(7) Advertising certification, including advertisement on Indian reservations. Certify it has publicized the availability of its applicable telephone assistance programs, such as Lifeline, in a manner reasonably designed to reach those likely to qualify for service, including residents of federally recognized Indian reservations within the ETC's designated service area. Such publicity should include advertisements likely to reach those who are not current customers of the ETC within its designated service area.

Response: The Company did not receive federal high cost funding in 2021. Therefore, this was not applicable in 2021 but will be in 2022.

(8) Report filing alternatives. To the extent the company has filed a report with a federal agency that provides the data requested by the commission, the company can refer to that docket number and the date the information was filed with the commission.

WAC 480-123-080 Annual plan for universal service support expenditures.

(1) Not later than July 1st of each year, every ETC that receives federal support from any category in the federal high-cost fund must report the planned use of federal support related to Washington state that will be received during the coming calendar year. The report must include the company's planned gross capital expenditures and operating expenses made with federal high-cost support received by the ETC for the coming calendar year along with a description of major projects and affected exchanges.

Response: The Company submits herewith Confidential Exhibit B. The schedule is not all-inclusive of the Company's planned capital expenditures but does list some of the more significant projects the Company is undertaking in 2022. The exhibit also includes a 2023 plan. The exhibit constitutes valuable commercial information in the form of network configuration and design information as recognized under RCW 80.04.095. Therefore, the schedule is being submitted as a CONFIDENTIAL document under WAC 480-07-160 and RCW 80.04.095.

(2) The report must include a substantive plan of the investments and expenditures to be made with federal support and a substantive description of how those investments and expenditures will benefit customers.

Response: The Company states in Exhibit A that federal support will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of the facilities and services for which the support is intended under 47 U.S.C. 254. The federal support will be used to fund operations of, and improvements to, the network, including some of the various projects included in Confidential Exhibit B. The Company's use of federal support in this manner will benefit consumers. As discussed previously in this report, these types of expenditures will serve to enable, sustain, and improve network capacity and reliability. This network capacity and reliability is essential to providing the level of service anticipated in 47 U.S.C. 254 and therefore benefits consumers.

For more specific consumer benefits associated with planned expenditures, the Company incorporates by reference the section of the Confidential Exhibit B that is entitled "Narrative". Also see Confidential Exhibit B for a report on planned use of federal support of the company's planned investments in 2023.

(3) As part of the initial ETC petition for federal high-cost support, and at least once every three years thereafter, a wireless ETC must submit a map in .shp format that shows the general location where it provides commercial mobile radio service signals.

Response: This is not applicable to the Company, as it is not a wireless ETC.