



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

621 Woodland Square Loop S.E. • Lacey, Washington 98503

P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

(360) 664-1160 • TTY 1-800-833-6384 or 711

January 16, 2024

**CONDITIONAL NOTICE SHORTENING TIME
FOR SCHEDULING A PREHEARING CONFERENCE
(Potential date: 9:30 a.m., January 31, 2024)**

RE: *In the Matter of the Petition of the CenturyLink Companies – Qwest Corporation; CenturyTel of Washington; CenturyTel of Interisland; CenturyTel of Cowiche; and United Telephone company of the Northwest to be Competitively Classified Pursuant to RCW 80.36.320,*

Docket UT-240029

In the Matter of the Petition of the CenturyLink Companies – Qwest Corporation; CenturyTel of Washington; CenturyTel of Interisland; CenturyTel of Cowiche; and United Telephone company of the Northwest to be Regulated Under an Alternative Form of Regulation Pursuant to RCW 80.36.135,

Docket UT-130477

On January 9, 2014, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) entered Order 04, Approving and Adopting Settlement Agreements between the CenturyLink Companies – Qwest Corporation, CenturyTel of Washington, CenturyTel of Inter Island, CenturyTel of Cowiche, and United Telephone Company of the Northwest (collectively referred to as CenturyLink or Company), Commission Staff (Staff), the Public Counsel Unit of the Office of the Attorney General (Public Counsel), Sprint Nextel Corporation, and the United States Department of Defense and other federal executive agencies. The settlement agreements established an alternative form of regulation (AFOR) for the Company pursuant to RCW 80.36.135. The AFOR was extended by order in 2020, 2021, and 2022. On July 27, 2023, the Commission entered Order 10, Granting Refiled Fourth Petition to Extend Alternative form of Regulation Plan, Amending Order 04, and Adopting Additional Conditions (Order 10). Order 10 approved a further one-year extension of the AFOR and additionally required that CenturyLink to file either a petition for competitive classification or a notification that the Company intended to pursue a new AFOR or take another action no later than January 17, 2024.

On January 8, 2024, CenturyLink filed with the Commission a Petition for Competitive Classification (Petition) pursuant to the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 80.36.320 and the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-121-061. The Petition requests an effective date of June 1, 2024. The Petition also requests that the Commission provide for a further extension of the deadline for filing a new AFOR should the Commission deny the Petition. The Petition was assigned to Docket UT-240029 and is scheduled to be heard at the Commission's regularly scheduled open meeting on January 25, 2024.

Per RCW 80.36.320, if the Commission should decide to suspend the effective date and set the matter for adjudication, the Commission must enter a final order within six months of the filing of the Petition. Given the possibility of a condensed procedural schedule, in the event that the Commission should suspend the effective date of the Petition at the open meeting on January 25, 2024, the Commission will promptly schedule a prehearing conference on shortened notice for 9:30 a.m. on January 31, 2024. The Commission requests that the Company, Commission staff, the Public Counsel Unit of the Washington Attorney General's Office, and any potential intervenors reserve that time for the potential prehearing conference.

THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That in the event that the Commission should suspend the effective date of the Petition on January 25, 2024, the Commission will then schedule a prehearing conference on shortened notice for January 31, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

KATHY HUNTER
Acting Executive Director and Secretary