

June 9, 2010

**NOTICE OF BENCH REQUEST  
(Due by Tuesday, June 15, 2010, at 3:00 p.m.)**

RE: *In the Matter of the Joint Application of Qwest Communications International Inc. and CenturyTel, Inc. For Approval of Indirect Transfer of Control of Qwest Corporation, Qwest Communications Company LLC, and Qwest LD Corp., Docket UT-100820*

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) seeks information in the form of the following bench request from Comcast Phone of Washington, LLC (Comcast).

**BENCH REQUEST NO. 2:**

On May 13, 2010, Qwest Communications International Inc. (QCII) and CenturyTel, Inc. (CenturyLink) filed a joint application for expedited approval with the Commission of the indirect transfer of control of QCII's operating subsidiaries, Qwest Corporation (Qwest Corp.), Qwest LD Corp. (QLDC) and Qwest Communications Company LLC (QCC) (collectively "Qwest") to CenturyLink (collectively with Qwest, Joint Applicants).

On May 26, 2010, Comcast filed a Petition to Intervene (Petition) with the Commission requesting intervention status. Comcast stated that it has a substantial interest in the proceeding since its "interconnection with Qwest is vital to Comcast's ability to provide service to customers in Qwest's service territory."<sup>1</sup> At the June 1, 2010, prehearing conference, Comcast orally requested leave to withdraw its petition. The Commission subsequently indicated to Comcast that the appropriate procedure would be to request leave to withdraw the petition in a written motion.

Comcast filed its Motion to Withdraw Petition to Intervene (Comcast's Motion) on June 2, 2010. In its Motion, Comcast indicates that it had initially filed the Petition

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<sup>1</sup> Comcast's Petition, ¶ 4.

“to preserve its rights to participate in this docket while it continued to review the filings ...”<sup>2</sup> Comcast asserts that it has since decided not to participate in the proceeding.<sup>3</sup>

In Docket UT-082119, Comcast had filed a Petition to Intervene in the merger case between Embarq Corporation (Embarq) and CenturyLink. Comcast’s request was granted on January 6, 2009. On February 17, 2009, Comcast filed a Motion to Withdraw (Comcast’s Motion to Withdraw) from the proceeding. In this filing, Comcast stated that it had entered into an agreement with Embarq and CenturyLink which satisfy its concerns regarding the merger.<sup>4</sup> Comcast did not provide the Commission with a copy of the agreement at that time, nor did it request that the agreement receive Commission approval.

The Commission’s rules, specifically WAC 480-07-700, *et seq*, require that parties to partial settlements file those settlement agreements with the Commission for review.<sup>5</sup> Given the circumstances under which Comcast withdrew in Docket UT-082119, please provide the following information:

- a) Is Comcast withdrawing its Petition in Docket UT-100820 based on a settlement agreement it has reached with the Joint Applicants?
- b) If so, please provide this agreement to the Commission.

Please respond to this Bench Request no later than Tuesday, **June 15, 2010**, at **3:00 p.m.**, with an original and **twelve (12)** copies. If you have any questions concerning these requests, please contact Administrative Law Judge Marguerite E. Friedlander at 360-664-1285, or via e-mail at [mfriedla@utc.wa.gov](mailto:mfriedla@utc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

MARGUERITE E. FRIEDLANDER  
Administrative Law Judge

cc: All Parties

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<sup>2</sup> Comcast’s Motion, ¶ 2.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> Comcast’s Motion to Withdraw, at 1.

<sup>5</sup> WAC 480-07-730(4).