

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET UT-061625
)	
QWEST CORPORATION,)	ORDER 20
)	
For an Alternative Form of Regulation)	ORDER HOLDING IN
Pursuant to RCW 80.36.135.)	ABEYANCE THE MOTION TO
)	EXTEND AND DEFER AFOR
)	FILING AND REVIEW
)	REQUIREMENTS
.....)	

MEMORANDUM

1 **NATURE OF PROCEEDING:** Docket UT-061625 involves Qwest Corporation’s (Qwest or Company)¹ request for an alternative form of regulation (AFOR) pursuant to RCW 80.36.135.

2 **PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND:** The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) approved, subject to condition, Qwest’s AFOR request which became effective on November 30, 2007.² Qwest’s AFOR was approved for a four-year term, with a formal review and filing requirements. The Commission has previously extended those filing requirements.

3 On November 4, 2011, the Company requested that the Commission defer and extend certain review and filing requirements in accordance with Condition 3 of the Settlement Agreement entered into between the companies, Commission Staff, and Public Counsel in Docket UT-100820, and approved by the Commission.³ That

¹ In Docket UT-100820, the Commission approved the merger of Qwest and CenturyLink. In this Order, we will continue to refer to “Qwest” for the purposes of clarity.

² Orders 06 and 08, entered July 24, and September 6, 2007, respectively and Order 11, entered November 8, 2007.

³ *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. Order 16 (October 11, 2011).*

Condition requires the Company make certain filings regarding new AFOR plans which the Company argues extend the existing Qwest AFOR until the Commission enters an order on those filings. No party opposed the motion and the time for doing so has now expired.

- 4 **COMMISSION DECISION:** The Final Order, Order 16, in Docket UT-100820 is on appeal in United States District Court. The Commission concludes that CenturyLink's motion for extension and deferral in this proceeding should be held in abeyance pending the outcome of that appeal.

ORDER

- 5 THE COMMISSION ORDERS That the motion for extension and deferral should be held in abeyance.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective December 21, 2011.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

PATRICIA CLARK
Administrative Law Judge