

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

In the Matter of the Joint Application of	)	DOCKET UT-100820
	)	
QWEST COMMUNICATIONS	)	ORDER 15
INTERNATIONAL INC. AND	)	
CENTURYTEL, INC.	)	
	)	ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR
For Approval of Indirect Transfer of	)	AN EXTENSION OF TIME
Control of Qwest Corporation, Qwest	)	REGARDING REPORTING
Communications Company LLC, and	)	REQUIREMENT
Qwest LD Corp.	)	
	)	
.....	)	

**MEMORANDUM**

- 1 **NATURE OF PROCEEDING:** On May 13, 2010, Qwest Communications International Inc. (QCII) and CenturyTel, Inc.<sup>1</sup> (CenturyLink or the Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a joint application for approval of the indirect transfer of control of QCII’s operating subsidiaries, Qwest Corporation, Qwest LD Corp., and Qwest Communications Company LLC to CenturyLink. This matter has been designated as Docket UT-100820.
  
- 2 **PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND:** On March 14, 2011, the Commission entered a final order, Order 14, which required CenturyLink to prepare and file a service quality improvement plan addressing the service quality issues raised by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (Colville Tribes), including broadband. This plan is due within 60 days after the merger’s close, which is May 31, 2011. On May 6, 2011, CenturyLink filed a Motion for an Extension of Time Regarding the Reporting Requirement (Motion).

---

<sup>1</sup> CenturyTel, Inc. changed its name to CenturyLink, Inc. with shareholder approval on May 20, 2010. Jones, Exh. No. JJ-1T, n. 1.

3 In its Motion, CenturyLink requests an additional 120 days within which to file the service quality improvement plan. If granted, CenturyLink’s proposal would result in the service quality improvement plan and the broadband deployment plan being due at the same time, 180 days after the merger’s close. CenturyLink argues that some aspects of the broadband deployment plan may have a beneficial effect on service quality. Further, the Company points out that the Colville Reservation is vast, and a detailed analysis of the service quality issues there will take some time to complete. CenturyLink reports that Commission Staff supports extending the deadline for the broadband portion of the plan and takes no position on extension of the service quality portion. The Company states that neither Public Counsel nor the Colville Tribes oppose the extension request. CenturyLink notes that the Commission left open the possibility of an extension of this requirement in Footnote 528, “[i]f the Joint Applicants need more time to undertake a comprehensive review of the Tribes’ needs. . . .”

4 The Commission issued a Notice which reopened the record for the limited purpose of CenturyLink’s Motion and gave the parties the opportunity to respond to the Motion. None of the parties filed comments on CenturyLink’s request.

5 **COMMISSION DECISION:** Pursuant to WAC 480-07-385(2), the Commission will grant a continuance<sup>2</sup> if the requesting party demonstrates good cause for the continuance and the continuance will not prejudice any party or the Commission. Good cause exists and no party or the Commission being prejudiced, this Motion should be granted.

---

<sup>2</sup> A continuance is defined as “any postponement or extension of time.” WAC 480-07-385(1)(a).

**ORDER**

- 6 **THE COMMISSION ORDERS That** CenturyLink’s Motion for an Extension of Time Regarding the Reporting Requirement is granted. The service quality improvement plan to address the concerns raised by the Colville Tribe’s is due within 180 days after closing of the merger or by September 28, 2011.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective May 20, 2011.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARGUERITE E. FRIEDLANDER  
Administrative Law Judge

NOTICE: CenturyLink has filed a complaint in U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington, Case No. 2:11-CV-00633 (“Complaint”) challenging certain portions of Order 14 in this docket. The Commission notifies the parties that nothing in the current Order or the Commission’s consideration of this or any other party filings after CenturyLink filed the Complaint can or should be construed as a waiver of any position the Commission has taken or may take in response to the Complaint, including but not limited to taking the position that any judicial decision invalidating any part of Order 14 must result in a remand to the Commission to determine whether and under what conditions the Commission should approve the Joint Application to approve the transfer of control of Qwest to CenturyLink.