

UT-230003

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June 30, 2023

Ms. Amanda Maxwell
Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, Washington 98503

**Re: Docket No.: UT-230003
CenturyLink 2023 Federal ETC Filing (Form 481)
United Telephone Company of the Northwest dba CenturyLink**

Dear Ms. Maxwell:

On November 18, 2011 the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) released its *USF/ICC Transformation Order* in WC Docket No. 10-90 et al. With that Order, the FCC began a transition to a national framework for certification of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (“ETCs”) and set forth a standard set of information that all ETCs must file with the FCC by July 1st of each year. The Order also required ETCs to provide the same information to the respective state commissions.

The annual ETC reporting requirements are contained in 47 C.F.R. § 54.313 of the FCC’s rules. For the reporting of the data and certifications required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.313 and 54.422, the FCC has developed a reporting template, Form 481, to be utilized by ETCs.

Beginning with the filing due on July 1, 2018 the FCC Form 481 no longer requires that high-cost recipients file information regarding network outages; unfulfilled service requests; the number of complaints received by an ETC per 1,000 subscribers for voice and broadband services; and pricing for voice and broadband services. The FCC Form 481 also no longer includes certifications for high-cost recipients regarding service quality standards and consumer protection rules. Finally, the FCC centralized filing of the FCC Form 481; ETCs no longer file duplicate copies of FCC Form 481 with the FCC and with states, U.S. Territories, and/or Tribal governments.

These filings are now provided to USAC through their online “E-File” portal and available to the State Commissions.

USAC has provided instructions indicating that: Applicants are required to complete and submit all forms online through USAC’s “E-File” portal at <https://forms.universalservice.org/usaclogin/login.asp>. A Form 481 is required to be submitted

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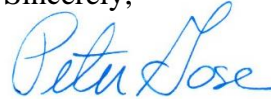
through this link. To create an online E-File account, please refer to the instructions on <http://www.usac.org/about/tools/e-file.aspx>

Attached, if required by the state commission, is the Form 481 as filed by CenturyLink with the FCC on or before July 1st. Otherwise, the Form 481 is available through the USAC portal as discussed above.

Consistent with past years, we request that you certify to the FCC pursuant to 47 C.F.R § 54.314 by October 1, 2023 in order for CenturyLink to continue receiving Federal high cost support in Washington.

Please do not hesitate to contact either me or Ken Buchan at (318) 362-1538 should you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Gose
Regulatory Affairs Director

Attachments
