

[Service Date March 23, 2012]

March 23, 2012

FOURTH NOTICE STAYING CERTAIN ORDERING CONDITIONS

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

TO ALL PARTIES:

On March 14, 2011, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) entered Order 14, approving the transaction and adopting conditions on the proposed acquisition of Qwest Communications International Inc. (Qwest) by CenturyTel, Inc., which changed its name to CenturyLink, Inc. (CenturyLink) last year. One condition required Qwest and CenturyLink (Joint Applicants) to establish within 30 days following the transaction's close an irrevocable escrow account for the \$80 million in retail broadband infrastructure. The Order required the Joint Applicants to deposit the first annual payment, in the amount of \$30 million, into the escrow account immediately thereafter, with the next installment, in the amount of \$25 million, due on April 1, 2012. On March 15, 2012, CenturyLink filed a motion for an extension of the April 1, 2012, escrow deposit condition. CenturyLink indicates that it will soon be filing a request to stay or discontinue future escrow payment requirements. As a result, CenturyLink asks that the Commission extend the April 1, 2012, deadline for at least 30 days or until the petition for disbursement and discontinuance of the escrow requirement has been decided.

Pursuant to WAC 480-07-385(2), the Commission finds good cause to continue the April 1, 2012, escrow payment deadline. This extension does not prejudice the Commission or any party. That being said, the Commission believes that 30 days may not provide enough time for an adequate review of any petition to discontinue the escrow requirement. As a result, the April 1, 2012, escrow deposit requirement is continued until May 31, 2012.

Sincerely,

DAVID W. DANNER
Executive Director and Secretary