

[Service Date July 13, 2012]

July 13, 2012

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE REPLY AND SURREPLY
(Public Counsel may file a reply by Tuesday, July 17, 2012, by 3:00 p.m.)
(CenturyLink may file a surreply by Friday, July 20, 2012, by 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

TO ALL PARTIES:

On March 30, 2012, CenturyLink, Inc. filed a Petition for Release of Funds from Broadband Escrow Account and Elimination of Requirements for Future Escrow Payments (Escrow Elimination Petition).¹ Specifically, CenturyLink is seeking Commission approval to discontinue further payments into the broadband escrow account. CenturyLink contends that it has made substantial progress in achieving its broadband deployment commitment in Washington.² In fact, CenturyLink asserts that its broadband expenditures already exceed the \$55 million escrow installments.³

The Public Counsel Section of the Washington State Attorney General's Office (Public Counsel) filed a response to the Escrow Elimination Petition on April 13, 2012. The Commission's regulatory staff (Staff) was granted an extension to file its response, which it did on July 12, 2012. Both Public Counsel and CenturyLink have informally requested the opportunity to provide additional information.

¹ Escrow Elimination Petition, ¶ 2. While CenturyLink has stylized its request for disbursement as a petition, the request is more akin to a compliance filing. As such, the request will be processed as a compliance filing on a separate track from the Petition. The Company's petition to eliminate the requirement of future escrow payments is in essence a motion to amend Order 14.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.* at ¶ 3. CenturyLink states that it has expended more than \$57 million on expansion of fiber-based high speed Internet services in 2011 in Washington state. *Id.* at ¶ 8.

In the interest of developing a full record on this issue, Public Counsel may file a reply to Staff's Response by Tuesday, July 17, 2012, and CenturyLink may file a surreply to Public Counsel's Reply by Friday, July 20, 2012.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That Public Counsel may file a reply to Staff's Response by Tuesday, July 17, 2012, by 3:00 p.m. CenturyLink may file a surreply to Public Counsel's Reply by 3:00 p.m., Friday, July 20, 2012.

MARGUERITE E. FRIEDLANDER
Administrative Law Judge