

Allison M. Ellis Senior Vice President Regulatory Affairs

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COMMISSIO

Date April 15, 2020

Chairman David W. Danner Commissioner Jay Balasbas Commissioner Ann Rendahl

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 621 Woodland Square Loop SE Lacey, WA 98503

Re: Docket UT-190574 – In the Matter of the Joint Application of Northwest Fiber, LLC, Frontier Communications Corporation, and Frontier Communications ILEC Holdings LLC, For an Order Declining to Assert Jurisdiction Over, or, in the Alternative, Approving the Transfer of Control of Frontier Communications Northwest, Inc., to Northwest Fiber, LLC.

Notice of Filing of Chapter 11 Bankruptcy - Frontier Communications Northwest Inc., Frontier Communications of America Inc. and Frontier Online & Long Distance

Dear Commissioners,

Frontier Communications Northwest Inc. and Frontier Communications ILEC Holdings LLC (collectively, "Frontier") hereby provide notice to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission that they and their parent entity, Frontier Communications Corporation and certain affiliates (collectively "Frontier Filing Entities"), filed a Petition under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York after the close of business on April 14, 2020. The filing of the Petition served to convert the legal status of Frontier Filing Entities to debtors-in-possession that will continue to operate the business during the court-supervised reorganization process. The bankruptcy filing did not result in any change to its current operations and Frontier will continue to operate as normal without out any expected interruption to its valued customers in Washington or to the planned close of the transaction with Northwest Fiber, LLC on April 30, 2020.

This notice is being made as a courtesy. Frontier and/or our outside counsel Tim O'Connell are available to discuss the Chapter 11 reorganization with you or other Staff if you think it would be of any benefit to the Commission. Additional information related to Frontier's restructuring and the Chapter 11 process is available to the Commission and Frontier's customers via dedicated web page at https://frontierrestructuring.com/, which Frontier will update periodically as the process progresses.

Frontier wants to emphasize that this Chapter 11 filing will not interrupt any service to residential, business or wholesale consumers, will not impact Frontier's ability to provide voice,

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data or video services in the state, and will not impact Frontier's provision of 911 services. The Chapter 11 filing will not result in a change to the rates or terms of service provided to customers or offered to prospective customers in the normal course of business. Frontier intends to continue its existing operations and to comply with its existing regulatory obligations and commitments without any change as a result of the filing of the Petition.

As noted above, the Chapter 11 filing is not expected to impact the close of the previoulsy approved sale of operations to Northwest Fiber, LLC. Frontier anticipates receiving any necessary Bankruptcy Court approvals to proceed with the scheduled closing of this transaction as planned on April 30, 2020. Further, Frontier will comply with the requirements included in the Commission's approval order issued February 19, 2020, including the requirements therein requiring Frontier to submit five days before closing: 1) retail service quality data showing that there has been no material degradation of service quality on the systems Frontier replicated for Northwest Fiber and 2) a report documenting testing that validates the Frontier operations support systems are fully functioning and operational.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or Tim O'Connell at <u>tim.oconnell@stoel.com</u> or (206) 386-7562.

Respectfully,

Allison M. Ellis

cc: Amy Andrews, Policy Director

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Tim O'Connell, Counsel, Stoel Rives

Jessica Epley, Manager Government & External Affairs, Frontier Communications

Byron Springer, General Counsel, Northwest Fiber, LLC

Mark Trinchero, Counsel, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP