

Agenda Date: January 25, 2024
Item Number: A1

Docket: UT-240029
Company Name: Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC, et al. (LUMEN)

Staff: Tim Zawislak, Senior Regulatory Analyst - Telecommunications

Recommendation

Issue a Complaint and Order Suspending Effective Date and set the Petition for hearing as soon as possible.

Background

On January 8, 2024, Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC, et al. (LUMEN or Company) filed a Competitive Classification Petition (Petition) requesting an order from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) classifying the five CenturyLink incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs)¹ as *competitively classified companies* pursuant to RCW 80.36.320.

LUMEN proposes an effective date of June 1, 2024. WAC 480-121-065 requires the Company to provide notice to each affected customer at least 30 days before the requested effective date. The Company has not yet notified its customers but is working with the Commission’s public involvement coordination team on how to best accomplish this outstanding requirement.

Discussion

Commission staff (Staff) has initially reviewed the Company’s Petition and determined that it should be suspended in order to investigate the evidence either provided or omitted and to allow all other parties including the Public Counsel Unit of the Attorney General’s Office to participate in the proceeding. Because the deadline for action by the Commission is six months from the date of filing pursuant to RCW 80.36.310(2), a prehearing conference should be held as soon as possible in order to complete the proceeding² by July 8, 2024. Additionally, Staff will request that the discovery rule be invoked and that a protective order also be established and issued in this case due to the highly sensitive nature of the data and potential proprietary information concerns associated with the CenturyLink ILECs’ and their competitors’ information.

¹ This Petition is filed for Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC (Qwest), CenturyTel of Washington, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink (CTL-WA), CenturyTel of Inter Island, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink (CTL-II), CenturyTel of Cowiche, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink (CTL-COW), and United Telephone Company of the Northwest d/b/a CenturyLink (CTL-UTNW); collectively referred to above as the “CenturyLink ILECs.”

The Telecommunications’ Section ILEC Study area boundaries map can be accessed at: <https://wutc.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=37dc41f987774ebf8096c6d19dfbc0e6>

² Staff’s intention is for the Commission to set this matter for hearing under Chapter 34.05 RCW.

Recommendation

Commission Staff recommends that the Commission issue a Complaint and Order Suspending Effective Date and set the Petition for hearing as soon as possible.