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Via ECFS

December 19, 2016

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Rule 54.312(c)(4) & (5) Certification of CenturyLink; *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 13, 2016, pursuant to Commission Rule 54.312(c)(4),¹ CenturyLink, on behalf of its incumbent local exchange carriers receiving 2013 Connect America Fund Phase I incremental support (CAF I Round 2 support) provided notice of its intent to use that support for broadband deployment in 9703 census blocks that it had not previously identified.²

Since filing that notice, 44 parties asserted that they serve all or a portion of 1849 of the newly identified census blocks. CenturyLink has removed these census blocks from its CAF I Round 2 deployment plans.³

¹ 47 C.F.R. §54.312(c)(4). This rule may not be in effect in so far as it seems the FCC has neither sought nor obtained Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) approval for the rule or announced an effective date for the rule. *See* 79 Fed. Reg. 34639 (June 18, 2014) (announcing PRA approval and an effective date for certain information collection requirements including those contained in 47 C.F.R. §54.312(b)(3) which addresses the notice requirement for CAF I incremental support awarded in 2012 (Round 1 support), but without referencing the similar information collection requirements contained in 47 C.F.R. §54.312(c)(4) for Round 2 support). CenturyLink is providing this certification without conceding that the rule is in effect or that the certification is required.

² *See* letter from Jeffrey S. Lanning (CenturyLink), to Marlene H. Dortch (FCC), WC Docket No. 10-90 (Sep. 13, 2016). A copy of the submission to the FCC was also served on USAC on Sep. 13, 2016.

³ Attachment 2 to this letter is a complete list of the census blocks that CenturyLink is removing from its CAF I Round 2 census blocks as a result of the served census block notifications.

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In accord with Rule 54.312(c)(4), CenturyLink is providing the attached certification.⁴

CenturyLink is uploading this letter, certification and the list in PDF format in WC Docket No. 10-90 via ECFS, and also providing a copy of the cover letter and certification (PDF format), and the list (Excel format) via electronic mail to the Wireline Competition Bureau staff persons identified below.

Copies of this letter and its attachments are also being sent to the Universal Service Administrative Company (with the list in both PDF and Excel formats), relevant state commissions, and affected Tribal governments.

Please contact me with any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeffrey S. Lanning

Enclosures

cc (via e-mail): Heidi Lankau
Carol Matthey
Alex Minard

⁴ The certification is Attachment 1 to this letter. The certification language has been modified from the precise language of Rule 54.312(c)(5) to accommodate the timing of the certification and the manner in which CenturyLink develops its capital deployment activities generally, and has done so for this program in particular.