

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of  
  
THE CENTURLINK COMPANIES –  
QWEST CORPORATION;  
CENTURYTEL OF WASHINGTON;  
CENTURYTEL OF INTERISLAND;  
CENTURYTEL OF COWICHE; AND  
UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY  
OF THE NORTHWEST  
  
To be Competitively Classified Pursuant  
to RCW 80.36.320

DOCKET UT-240029

In the Matter of the Petition of  
  
THE CENTURLINK COMPANIES  
– QWEST CORPORATION;  
CENTURYTEL OF WASHINGTON;  
CENTURYTEL OF INTERISLAND;  
CENTURYTEL OF COWICHE; AND  
UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY  
OF THE NORTHWEST  
  
To be Regulated Under an Alternative  
Form of Regulation Pursuant to RCW  
80.36.135.

DOCKET UT-130477

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL  
PREHEARING CONFERENCE  
**(Set for Wednesday, January 31,  
2024, at 9:30 a.m.)**

1 **NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS. (Docket UT-240029):** On January 8, 2024, Qwest Corporation, CenturyTel of Washington, CenturyTel of Interisland, CenturyTel of Cowiche, and United Telephone Company of the Northwest (collectively, CenturyLink, and individually, the CenturyLink ILECs) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a Petition for Competitive Classification of each of the CenturyLink ILECs (Petition) pursuant to RCW 80.36.320 to become

effective June 1, 2024. The Petition was set for discussion at the Commission's regularly scheduled open meeting on January 25, 2024.

2 **(Docket UT-130477):** On January 9, 2014, the Commission entered Order 04, Approving and Adopting Settlement Agreements between the CenturyLink ILECs, Commission Staff (Staff), the Public Counsel Unit of the Office of the Attorney General (Public Counsel), Sprint Nextel Corporation, and the United States Department of Defense and other federal executive agencies. The settlement agreements established an alternative form of regulation (AFOR) for the Company pursuant to RCW 80.36.135.

3 The AFOR was extended by order in 2020, 2021, and 2022. On July 27, 2023, the Commission entered Order 10, Granting Refiled Fourth Petition to Extend Alternative form of Regulation Plan, Amending Order 04, and Adopting Additional Conditions (Order 10). Order 10 approved a further one-year extension of the AFOR and additionally required that CenturyLink file either a petition for competitive classification or a notification that the Company intended to pursue a new AFOR or take another action no later than January 17, 2024.

4 On January 16, 2024, the Commission issued a Conditional Notice Shortening Time for Scheduling a Prehearing Conference, informing the parties that if the Commission suspended the effective date of the Petition at the open meeting that it would schedule a prehearing conference for January 31, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

5 On January 25, 2024, the Commission entered Order 01, Order Suspending Effective Date.

6 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter under Title 80 RCW and has legal authority to regulate telecommunication companies. The statutes that apply to this matter include Chapters 80.01 RCW, 80.04 RCW, and 80.36 RCW, including but not limited to RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.01.070, RCW 80.04.110, RCW 80.04.380, and RCW 80.36.080. The rules that apply to this matter include those within Chapters WAC 480-120, relating to telecommunication companies.

7 The Commission will hear this matter under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), particularly Part IV of Chapter 34.05 RCW relating to adjudications. The provisions of the APA that relate to this proceeding include, but are not limited to RCW 34.05.413, RCW 34.05.422, RCW 34.05.431, RCW 34.05.440, RCW 34.05.449, and RCW 34.05.452. The Commission will also follow its procedural rules in WAC 480-07 in this proceeding.

8 The Commission finds there is good cause to hear this matter on shortened notice. *See* WAC 480-07-440(1)(a) and RCW 34.05.434.

9 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That it will hold a joint virtual prehearing conference in these matters at 9:30 a.m. on January 31, 2024. [click here to join meeting](#).<sup>1</sup> To attend by phone, please call (253) 215-8782 and enter the Meeting ID: 884 8730 8977# and Passcode: 285528#.**

10 The purpose of the prehearing conference is to consider requests for intervention, resolve scheduling matters including establishing dates for distributing evidence, to identify the issues in the proceeding, and to determine other matters to assist the Commission in resolving the matter, as listed in WAC 480-07-430.

11 **INTERVENTION:** Persons seeking to intervene in the proceeding must file written petitions to intervene at least three business days before the date of the prehearing conference. *See* WAC 480-07-355(a). Party representatives must file a notice of appearance with the Commission no later than the business day before the conference. *See* WAC 480-07-345(2). Any party or witness in need of an interpreter or other assistance should fill out the form attached to this Notice and return it to the Commission. The Commission will set the time and place for the evidentiary hearings at the prehearing conference or by later written notice.

12 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That any party who fails to attend or participate in the prehearing conference set by this Notice, or any other stage of this proceeding, may be held in default under RCW 34.05.440 and WAC 480-07-450.**

13 The names and mailing addresses of all known parties and their known representatives are as follows:

Commission: Washington Utilities and Transportation  
Commission  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Representative: Jeff Roberson

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<sup>1</sup><https://utc-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/88487308977?pwd=wKnwlnHd9MjQ1vB6zeClfbzaholbkm.1>.

Cassandra Jones

Office of the Attorney General  
Utilities and Transportation Division  
P.O. Box 40128  
Olympia, WA 98504-0128  
360.709.4852  
360.709.6028  
[jeff.roberson@atg.wa.gov](mailto:jeff.roberson@atg.wa.gov)  
[cassandra.jones@atg.wa.gov](mailto:cassandra.jones@atg.wa.gov)

Company: CenturyLink Communications, LLC  
Robert Thoms  
120 Lenora St. Suite 502  
Seattle, WA 98121  
(253) 307-8422  
[robert.thoms@lumen.com](mailto:robert.thoms@lumen.com)

Representatives: Adam Sherr  
1600 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. RM 1506  
Seattle, WA 98191  
(206) 398-2507  
[adam.sherr@lumen.com](mailto:adam.sherr@lumen.com)

Public Counsel: Lisa W. Gafken  
Assistant Attorney General  
Washington Attorney General's Office  
Public Counsel Unit  
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98104-3188  
(206) 464-6595  
[lisa.gafken@atg.wa.gov](mailto:lisa.gafken@atg.wa.gov)

- 14 The Commissioners of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Administrative Law Judges Gregory J. Kopta and Paige Doyle, from the Commission's Administrative Law Division, will preside during this proceeding.<sup>2</sup>
- 15 The Attorney General has designated Lisa W. Gafken from the Public Counsel Unit of the Washington Attorney General's Office (Public Counsel) to represent the public. You may use the Commission's address, shown below, for contacting Public Counsel, or you may contact Public Counsel directly by writing or calling the address or telephone number listed below.
- 16 The Commission will give parties notice of any other procedural phase of the proceeding in writing or on the record, as appropriate during this proceeding.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective January 25, 2024.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

KATHY HUNTER  
Acting Executive Director and Secretary

Inquiries may be addressed to:

Executive Director and Secretary  
Washington State Utilities and  
Transportation Commission  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160

- or - Public Counsel Unit  
Office of the Attorney General  
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98104-3188  
(206) 464-7744

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<sup>2</sup> Judge Kopta can be reached by email at [gregory.kopta@utc.wa.gov](mailto:gregory.kopta@utc.wa.gov) or by phone at (360) 664-1355. Judge Doyle can be reached by email at [paige.doyle@utc.wa.gov](mailto:paige.doyle@utc.wa.gov) or by phone at (360) 664-1140.

**NOTICE**

Hearings are accessible to persons with disabilities and persons who do not speak English as a first language. If limited English-speaking or hearing-impaired parties or witnesses are involved in a hearing and need an interpreter, a qualified interpreter will be appointed at no cost to the party or witness.

If you need an interpreter, or have other special needs, please provide the information requested below via email to Stacey Brewster, paralegal, at [stacey.brewster@utc.wa.gov](mailto:stacey.brewster@utc.wa.gov).

(PLEASE SUPPLY ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION)

Docket: \_\_\_\_\_

Case Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hearing Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Hearing Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Language: \_\_\_\_\_

Hearing Impaired: (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ (No) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need a certified sign language interpreter:

Visual \_\_\_\_\_ Tactile \_\_\_\_\_

Other type of assistance needed: \_\_\_\_\_