



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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June 7, 2024

NOTICE SUSPENDING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

and

NOTICE REQUIRING SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

RE: *In the Matter of the Petition of the CenturyLink 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*

TO ALL PARTIES:

On January 8, 2024, the CenturyLink Companies – Qwest Corporation, CenturyTel of Washington, CenturyTel of Inter Island, CenturyTel of Cowiche, and United Telephone Company of the Northwest (collectively referred to as CenturyLink or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a Petition for Competitive Classification (Petition) pursuant to Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 80.36.320 and Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-121-061.

On February 5, 2024, the Commission issued Order 02, Prehearing Conference Order; Notice of Hearing, which established a procedural schedule, including an evidentiary hearing set for May 24, 2024.

On April 22, 2024, the Commission issued a Notice Modifying Procedural Schedule and Notice Rescheduling Evidentiary Hearing (First Notice). The First Notice extended the procedural schedule to allow the parties to focus on reaching a settlement and rescheduled the evidentiary hearing to June 14, 2024.

On May 14, 2024, the Commission issued a Second Notice Modifying Procedural Schedule and Notice Rescheduling Evidentiary Hearing (Second Notice). The Second Notice further extended the procedural schedule and rescheduled the evidentiary hearing to July 19, 2024.

On June 6, 2024, Commission staff (Staff) contacted the presiding officer to inform the Commission that Staff and CenturyLink (the Settling Parties) had reached a settlement in principle and to request that the Commission suspend the procedural schedule. Staff stated that the Settling Parties could file a formalized settlement and supporting testimony by July 1, 2024, if the Commission intended to retain the July 19, 2024, hearing for a potential settlement hearing.

Public Counsel responded to request that it be allowed sufficient time to review supporting testimony and prepare a response. Public Counsel requested that the parties be allowed to provide a proposed alternative procedural schedule by June 14, 2024.

The Commission finds good cause to suspend the procedural schedule but maintain the July 19, 2024, hearing date for a possible settlement hearing. The parties must provide the presiding officer with an agreed proposed procedural schedule or alternative proposed schedules as soon as possible, but not later than 12 p.m., June 14, 2024.

THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That the procedural schedule in Docket UT-240029 is suspended, with the exception of the hearing currently scheduled for July 19, 2024. The Commission retains that date for a potential settlement hearing.

THE COMMISSION GIVES FURTHER NOTICE That the parties must provide to the presiding officer either an agreed proposed procedural schedule or alternative proposed procedural schedules as soon as possible, but no later than 12 p.m., June 14, 2024.

/s/ Paige Doyle
PAIGE DOYLE
Administrative Law Judge