

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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 Regulated Under an Alternative Form of Regulation Pursuant to RCW 80.36.135.

DOCKET NO. UT-130477

JOINT PETITION TO MODIFY SETTLEMENT TO ALLOW WITHDRAWAL OF CENTURYTEL WHOLESALE TARIFF WN U-9

- 1 CenturyTel of Washington, d/b/a CenturyLink (CenturyLink¹) hereby files this Joint Petition on behalf of itself, the Staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Staff), and the Public Counsel Unit of the Attorney General’s Office (Public Counsel), collectively, “Petitioners”.
- 2 CenturyLink wishes to withdraw or cancel its wholesale Tariff WN U-9. This tariff is obsolete, as no customers currently purchase any services under it, and the terms and conditions for the services it contains are fully addressed in individual interconnection agreements (ICAs) entered into with competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and filed with the Commission.
- 3 Petitioners are all parties to the Commission-approved Settlement Agreement in this matter, which includes a provision stating that certain services would remain in the tariff.² Petitioners have agreed that under the circumstances described in this Petition, it is no longer necessary or in the public interest to maintain Tariff WN U-9. Thus,

¹ For purposes of this Petition, CenturyLink includes CenturyTel of Washington, CenturyTel of Inter Island, and CenturyTel of Cowiche.

² “The following services will remain in CenturyLink’s tariffs: ... h) Wholesale Services.”, Order No. 04, Appendix A, Attachment A (Plan of AFOR for CenturyLink), page 2.

Petitioners ask that the Commission approve a modification of the Settlement Agreement consisting of removing the requirement that the services in wholesale Tariff WN U-9 remain in the tariff. Petitioners further request that the Commission allow CenturyLink to withdraw that tariff in its entirety, by way of a separate advice filing.

4 Prior to this Joint Petition, Staff engaged in informal discovery on the issue of withdrawing the tariff, and is satisfied with CenturyLink's responses to its questions. Among the topics inquired into were (1) the status of wholesale directory services tariff withdrawal filings in other states (no objections); (2) whether any ICAs reference the tariff (no); (3) the status of existing ICAs and whether they contain terms for Directory Services (yes); (4) whether existing ICAs contain "evergreen clauses" (yes, which can be opted into prior to the expiration date of the ICA); (5) the extent to which CenturyLink is deregulated or under AFORs in other states (varies, but tariff filings are required in most states for wholesale tariffs); (6) the impact of this withdrawal on CenturyLink-Qwest merger terms and conditions (none), and; (7) whether these services are tariffed at the FCC (no).

5 As noted above, WN U-9 has no customers taking services under the tariff. WN U-9 addresses only Directory Services, and by its terms it does not apply to any carrier operating under an ICA with CenturyLink. This tariff was voluntarily filed by CenturyLink as a way to memorialize terms and conditions for directory services at a time when the legacy CenturyTel companies were operating under a rural exemption – in other words, CenturyTel at the time did not have to enter into ICAs with carriers, but in order to provide directory services to CLECs, CenturyTel voluntarily tariffed those terms.

6 CenturyLink has undertaken an initiative to clean up and eliminate obsolete provisions in its tariffs, and is thus filing to eliminate these wholesale tariffs where there are no customers using the services. CenturyLink respectfully requests that in Washington, for WN U-9, it be permitted to file an Advice Letter on one day's notice, withdrawing the tariff in its entirety.

Respectfully submitted this 20th day of October, 2017.

CENTURYLINK

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