

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

Docket No. UT-130477

ORDER 06

GRANTING JOINT PETITION TO  
MODIFY SETTLEMENT  
AGREEMENT AND AMENDING  
ORDER 04

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On January 9, 2014, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) entered Order 04 approving and adopting settlement agreements between 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), 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.
- 2 On October 20, 2017, CenturyLink, Staff, and Public Counsel (collectively Joint Parties) filed a Joint Petition to Modify Settlement to Allow Withdrawal of CenturyTel Wholesale Tariff WN U-9 (Joint Petition). The Joint Parties' settlement agreement includes a provision requiring that wholesale services remain in the existing tariffs, including for purposes of this petition, directory services offered in Tariff WN U-9. These parties now assert that this provision is no longer necessary because competitive local exchange companies (CLECs) obtain these services from CenturyLink through interconnection agreements (ICAs) rather than the tariff:

WN U-9 has no customers taking service 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.<sup>1</sup>

CenturyLink is eliminating obsolete provisions in tariffs and requests that the Commission permit the Company to file an advice letter on one day's notice withdrawing Tariff WN U-9 in its entirety.

3 No other party filed a response to the Joint Petition.

### **DISCUSSION**

4 We grant the Joint Petition. The provision of the settlement agreement and Order 04 requiring CenturyLink to continue to tariff wholesale services ensures that competing telecommunications carriers have access to the services they need from CenturyLink to serve their customers. If competitors can and do obtain directory services from CenturyLink exclusively through ICAs, rather than Tariff WN U-9, we agree with the Joint Parties that Order 04 should not be interpreted to continue to require the Company to maintain that tariff. Accordingly, we accept the Joint Parties' modification of their settlement agreement, amend Order 04 to exclude any requirement to continue to offer the wholesale services in Tariff WN U-9, and allow the Company to withdraw that tariff on one business day's notice.

### **ORDER**

5 THE COMMISSION ORDERS That

6 (1) The Commission grants the Joint Petition to Modify Settlement to Allow Withdrawal of CenturyTel Wholesale Tariff WN U-9 and amends Order 04 to exclude the wholesale services in Tariff WN U-9 from the requirement that wholesale services remain in the tariffs of CenturyTel of Washington, CenturyTel of Inter Island, and CenturyTel of Cowiche.

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<sup>1</sup> Joint Petition ¶ 5.

- 7 (2) CenturyTel of Washington, d/b/a CenturyLink may withdraw Tariff WN U-9 in its entirety on one business day's notice.

DATED at Olympia, Washington and effective November 1, 2017.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

JAY M. BALASBAS, Commissioner