



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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July 21, 2023

**NOTICE CONVERTING HEARING
TO PREHEARING CONFERENCE
(Set for Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.)**

RE: *In the Matter of the Petition of the CenturyLink Companies to Be Regulated Under an Alternative Form of Regulation Pursuant to RCW 80.36.135,*
Docket UT-130477

TO ALL PARTIES:

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.

On June 27, 2023, CenturyLink filed a petition for a fourth extension of the amended AFOR plan and to modify Order 04 accordingly (Petition). On June 30, 2023, the Commission issued a Notice Suspending Filing Requirement, Rejecting Petition, and Requiring Refiling, and Notice of Hearing (Notice). The Notice established deadlines for CenturyLink to refile the Petition in compliance with Commission rules and for responses from the other parties. The Notice also scheduled a hearing on July 26, 2023, to consider any refiled petition.

On July 7, 2023, CenturyLink filed a Refiled Petition for a Fourth Extension of the AFOR (Refiled Petition). CenturyLink represents that it plans to file a petition for competitive classification and is in negotiations with Staff and Public Counsel prior to filing a formal

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petition. Pending resolution of that process, CenturyLink seeks to extend the existing AFOR for another year or until the Company is competitively classified, whichever occurs first. On July 14, 2023, Staff and Public Counsel each filed responses in support of the Refiled Petition.

The Commission has reviewed the Refiled Petition and responses and finds that a hearing on that petition is not necessary. The Commission, however, requires additional information from, and consultation with, the parties prior to entering an order on that petition. Accordingly, the Commission converts the scheduled hearing to a prehearing conference before the administrative law judge. At that prehearing conference, the parties should be prepared to discuss the status of their negotiations and to address logistical and scheduling issues. To participate via Zoom, [click here to join meeting](#).¹ To participate by phone, call (253) 215-8782 and enter Meeting ID: 821 2580 0275# and Passcode: # 798194.

THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE that the July 26, 2023, Hearing in Docket UT-130477, set to begin at 9:30 a.m., is converted to a prehearing conference on that same date and time.

/s/ Gregory J. Kopta
GREGORY J. KOPTA
Administrative Law Judge

¹ <https://utc-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/82125800275?pwd=cTdVUWNlMlVSS9ROGdnS3FsWlUvdz09>.