

**In the Matter of the Petition of the Centurylink  
Companies**

**Docket UT-130477 - Vol. V**

**July 26, 2023**



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of )  
)  
THE CENTURYLINK COMPANIES - )  
QWEST CORPORATION; )  
CENTURYTEL OF WASHINGTON; ) Docket UT-130477  
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 )  
)

PREHEARING CONFERENCE  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GREGORY J. KOPTA PRESIDING  
JULY 26, 2023

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive Southwest  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

TRANSCRIBED BY: Cynthia M. Allen, RMR, CRR, CRC

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2 July 26, 2023  
3  
4 THE COURT: Good morning. Let's be on the record. We are  
5 here in Docket UT-130477 captioned In the Matter of the  
6 Petition of the CenturyLink Companies to be Regulated Under  
7 an Alternative Form of Regulation Pursuant to RCW 80.36.135.  
8 I am Gregory J. Kopta, the Administrative Law Judge who is  
9 presiding in this proceeding.  
10 And we are here today for a prehearing conference to  
11 discuss issues arising from the revised petition that  
12 CenturyLink filed to modify Order 04 in this docket to  
13 extend the period under which the aid for alternative form  
14 of regulation remains in effect.  
15 So we will begin with appearances, starting with the  
16 company.  
17 MR. SHERR: Good morning, Judge Kopta.  
18 Adam Sherr on behalf of CenturyLink. Last name is spelled  
19 S-H-E-R-R.  
20 Do you need addresses and all that for the record?  
21 THE COURT: No. No. We've got all of that information.  
22 We've been at this docket for a while now.  
23 MR. SHERR: Okay. Thank you. Good morning.  
24 THE COURT: And for staff?  
25 MR. ROBERSON: Good morning, Judge Kopta.

1 APPEARANCES  
2 For CenturyLink Companies:  
3 Adam Sherr  
4 CenturyLink  
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22  
23 Cassandra Jones  
24  
25

1 Jeff Roberson, AAG for staff. With me at counsel table  
2 virtually is my colleague, Cassandra Jones.  
3 THE COURT: All right. And for public counsel?  
4 MS. PAISNER: Good morning, Judge Kopta.  
5 This is Ann Paisner. I'm an assistant attorney general  
6 with the Public Counsel Unit of the Washington State  
7 Attorney General's Office.  
8 THE COURT: (Inaudible).  
9 MS. PAISNER: And I think -- I just wanted to mention that  
10 possibly joining -- I don't see him on the line, but we  
11 do -- we are working with an expert, and his name is David  
12 Brevitz, and he may be joining just to listen.  
13 THE COURT: Okay. Fine.  
14 Does anyone want to make -- anyone else want to make an  
15 appearance? Not hearing anything, I will assume not.  
16 All right. Well, as the most recent notice indicated, the  
17 commission has reviewed revised petition and the responses,  
18 and the commissioners want some additional information  
19 before issuing a decision on the petition.  
20 And first question that I have is: What is the status of  
21 negotiations between the parties in terms of developing a  
22 petition for competitive classification?  
23 Mr. Sherr?  
24 MR. SHERR: Sure. Thank you. Good morning.  
25 So CenturyLink made a proposal to -- a confidential

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1 proposal to staff and to public counsel in May -- in May --  
 2 on May 24th. The parties convened a settlement conference  
 3 in mid June. June 14th I believe is the date.  
 4 And there were some questions that were raised for us to  
 5 follow up -- for the company to follow up on during that  
 6 meeting, and then also public counsel sent some questions.  
 7 And in July we have responded to those questions,  
 8 July 14th to staff questions (inaudible) public counsel's  
 9 questions. So we have -- that is kind of where we are in  
 10 the process.  
 11 I know I won't speak for staff or for public counsel, but  
 12 we have made a proposal. We have had a -- we had a really  
 13 good discussion about it. There were -- it was a lengthy  
 14 discussion with lots of questions asked.  
 15 It was -- it felt like everyone was acting in good faith  
 16 and with genuine curiosity as to what the proposal was, and  
 17 what potential challenges with it were, and how we could  
 18 potentially work through it.  
 19 And from the company's perspective, we're awaiting  
 20 guidance, or a counterproposal, or something (inaudible). I  
 21 don't have a timeline because it's not me making the  
 22 proposal.  
 23 THE COURT: Well, that was sort of my next question. Is  
 24 there an anticipated time by which you expect that there  
 25 will either be an agreement or not?

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1 MR. SHERR: Yeah. I think at this point not. I don't  
 2 think there is that particular understanding yet.  
 3 I would leave it to staff and public counsel to indicate.  
 4 I know staff is going -- is doing their diligence and  
 5 working through things, and so I would leave it to them to  
 6 identify when they think they would be able to get back to  
 7 us.  
 8 You know, like any other negotiation, if we are -- you  
 9 know, first of all, this isn't going to be great for the  
 10 recording, but if we're very far apart, and the  
 11 counterproposal comes back, and we're -- you know, we're one  
 12 inch apart, it's obviously going to be quicker and easier to  
 13 resolve what we can resolve. And if we're just as far  
 14 apart, then maybe not.  
 15 So it's pretty hard to put a precise date on it, but  
 16 would, you know, strongly encourage the commission to afford  
 17 us the opportunity to negotiate. Because, you know, for the  
 18 sake of administrative efficiency, being able to file a  
 19 petition that is entirely agreed to by staff and/or public  
 20 counsel, or mostly agreed to would obviously be far superior  
 21 than filing a petition where there's no agreement and we  
 22 have to litigate all issues.  
 23 So that's kind of where we are.  
 24 THE COURT: Well, and that -- I think that makes sense.  
 25 And yet at the same time the follow-up question is: If you

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1 are unable to reach an agreement either in whole or in  
 2 part --  
 3 MR. SHERR: Sure.  
 4 THE COURT: -- is it Centurylink's intention to file a  
 5 petition?  
 6 MR. SHERR: It is. It is. Absolutely. And -- right.  
 7 Absolutely it is.  
 8 But I believe we'll be able to reach agreement on many  
 9 parts of what would otherwise be litigated as if this were  
 10 sort of just a greenfield.  
 11 So I do have some optimism, which isn't what I'm really  
 12 known for personally. But I do have some optimism that  
 13 we'll be able to, you know, find some common ground on much  
 14 of it. But yes, that is our -- that is our intention is to  
 15 do that.  
 16 And AFOR is sort of the backstop, right? Because I don't  
 17 think there's anyone -- and again, I'm not here to speak for  
 18 anyone, but I don't think that there's anyone that is  
 19 looking for us to become regulated like it's 1955 and be  
 20 fully regulated again.  
 21 And that's what happens if we just completely forego --  
 22 while we pursue competitive classification, if we don't  
 23 receive, you know, approval for our -- you know, if our  
 24 petition is denied, or if conditions are imposed on our  
 25 petition that aren't workable from the company's

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1 perspective, and there isn't an AFOR there as a backstop,  
 2 then we're fully regulated.  
 3 And that isn't -- I don't think anyone wants that,  
 4 definitely including us. I don't think anyone is staffed  
 5 for that. It doesn't make any sense given the market. And  
 6 so that's why we're pursuing it this way.  
 7 I just wanted to make -- I'm sure that was clear, but I  
 8 just wanted to articulate.  
 9 THE COURT: No. And I appreciate that. And it is  
 10 something that we understand and, you know --  
 11 MR. SHERR: Great.  
 12 THE COURT: -- I don't think that there's any disagreement  
 13 with that, at least on my part.  
 14 And yet in thinking about practicalities, wouldn't we need  
 15 to have resolved any petition for competitive classification  
 16 by the July date when CenturyLink next year would need to  
 17 file a revised, or at least open a docket for another AFOR?  
 18 MR. SHERR: So yes and no. So yes, if the -- it's not  
 19 binary. But yes. I mean, we would have to know -- from the  
 20 company's perspective, we would need to either have  
 21 resolution of the competitive classification docket or have  
 22 another brief extension, right, to accommodate.  
 23 Obviously between July of 2023 and July of 2024 we're  
 24 going to have a lot more information as to where we are in  
 25 that process. I mean, none of us can control how long any

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1 proceeding takes, because they all take their own path, you  
 2 know, no matter how hard we try to streamline them.  
 3 Obviously if we come in with a petition that is in many  
 4 parts stipulated to or is narrow, you know, in terms of the  
 5 issues in dispute, I think we can hopefully expect that it  
 6 will be a more streamlined process than if it's just a  
 7 greenfield, here's a brand-new petition with, you know, no  
 8 agreement on anything.  
 9 But yes. So by -- I would agree with you by the date  
 10 of -- in July of 2024 we're either going to have to file a  
 11 new petition for -- or start the process of the AFOR, or  
 12 have another extension if the competitive classification  
 13 docket isn't resolved (inaudible).  
 14 THE COURT: So here's my fear, and that is, if CenturyLink  
 15 continues to negotiate, and either is able to reach  
 16 agreement on some or all issues or is not, and does not file  
 17 a petition for competitive classification until May or June  
 18 of (inaudible) --  
 19 MR. SHERR: Sure.  
 20 THE COURT: -- then we have another problem in terms of  
 21 what happens with this docket.  
 22 And, you know, the commission has already extended this  
 23 three times, and I don't think they want -- the  
 24 commissioners want to be in a position of having to do it  
 25 yet again because things dragged out and didn't get done in

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1 enough time.  
 2 So is there some willingness to kind of put a date -- end  
 3 date by which CenturyLink would file any petition for  
 4 competitive classification to at least ensure that there is  
 5 some time -- and we can't guarantee how long it's going to  
 6 take.  
 7 And, you know, extending for a couple of months is one  
 8 thing. Extending for another year is something else.  
 9 So, you know, if there is, like, a date in January or  
 10 February by which CenturyLink would -- I won't say commit,  
 11 but at least target for filing any petition for competitive  
 12 classification so that we don't have to keep extending this  
 13 docket, is that something --  
 14 MR. SHERR: Sure.  
 15 THE COURT: -- that you're willing to do?  
 16 MR. SHERR: So theoretically, absolutely. If you were  
 17 going to ask me to do it by August 15th I would say no. But  
 18 (inaudible) I mean, you can. You're the Judge. You get to  
 19 ask anything you want. And I'm actually not supposed to say  
 20 no to you.  
 21 But largely, yeah. I think the answer is yes, for sure  
 22 that that is a reasonable -- that's a reasonable approach.  
 23 I don't have dominion -- the company doesn't have dominion  
 24 over when we get proposals, if we get proposals at all, if  
 25 our settling -- or, you know, negotiation partners are

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1 going -- are able to fully engage or not. So I don't have  
 2 dominion over that.  
 3 But I think that if we're talking about January, that  
 4 provides -- that should provide an ample amount of time.  
 5 But I guess I would maybe perhaps like to hear from staff  
 6 as well, because -- and public counsel, because we're not  
 7 doing this alone. I mean --  
 8 THE COURT: No.  
 9 MR. SHERR: I could theoretically file a petition for  
 10 competitive classification tomorrow. It's just that's not  
 11 the approach we want to take.  
 12 We want to try to get it as narrow as possible in terms of  
 13 issues in dispute or have none at all.  
 14 So obviously we could file anytime. But that, to me,  
 15 would be -- would just strain -- would be a strain on  
 16 everybody to start litigating from scratch when we don't  
 17 need to.  
 18 And so yeah. So if it's possible, maybe I could reserve  
 19 my answer to that question until we hear from staff and  
 20 public counsel, if that's okay.  
 21 THE COURT: Well, they are next on my list to ask that  
 22 question.  
 23 MR. SHERR: Fantastic.  
 24 THE COURT: So, Mr. Roberson, is that something that you  
 25 think is at least a possibility from staff's perspective in

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1 terms of what you've seen so far in negotiations?  
 2 MR. ROBERSON: I don't see a problem with it. The one  
 3 kind of issue is staff is attempting to get access to the  
 4 FCC fabric, like the broadband data in order to look at kind  
 5 of the competition Lumen faces by census block just to  
 6 figure out what that looks like, which is an important  
 7 consideration for the competitive classification petition.  
 8 They're in the process of attempting to get the license.  
 9 I don't know what the time frame is on that off the top of  
 10 my head.  
 11 But if the -- if the date is January, I can't imagine it  
 12 would drag out that long.  
 13 I can say that staff is working diligently. I'm meeting  
 14 with my client weekly to discuss the petition, the proposal,  
 15 voluminous (inaudible).  
 16 So it's -- there are resource constraints, but staff is  
 17 doing what it can within those resource constraints. I  
 18 don't -- I don't think anyone sees merit in dragging out a  
 19 2013 docket much longer than we have to. So...  
 20 THE COURT: Well, yeah. Once it hits the ten-year  
 21 anniversary, it is kind of time to move on to something  
 22 else.  
 23 Ms. Paisner, is public counsel at this point comfortable  
 24 with the idea of setting a January date by which to file  
 25 competitive classification petition by CenturyLink?

1 MS. PAISNER: Thank you, Your Honor.  
 2 I believe that the parties could still engage in the  
 3 current discussions if there is an open docket.  
 4 If the company files a request for competitive  
 5 classification today, we could still have the same  
 6 conversations. And so I mean, I think that setting a date  
 7 in January, we would not object if the commission decides  
 8 that's what it wants to do.  
 9 But I think we mentioned this in our response to the  
 10 revised petition for extension, that given the timing, and  
 11 exactly as you mentioned earlier when you were asking  
 12 questions about the possibility that you could run up until  
 13 the July 2024 date and then have this exact, same situation  
 14 happen again.  
 15 So we would not object to a January date, if that's what  
 16 the commission wants, to set a timeline for competitive  
 17 classification. We also wouldn't object to anything earlier  
 18 than that or filing it now.  
 19 We think these issues, if it's either a request for  
 20 competitive classification or a new AFOR, are the same.  
 21 We also wouldn't object to, you know, consolidating this  
 22 docket with that competitive classification docket, because  
 23 we think it's the same issues of how to regulate the company  
 24 going forward.  
 25 And we do think those, you know, discussions need to

1 the petition for competitive classification would be denied,  
 2 and I don't think anybody wants to be in a position of going  
 3 back to full regulation at this point.  
 4 So that's something to look at down the road. But as I  
 5 say, I really think that the commission -- commissioners  
 6 wants to be able to have some confidence that we're moving  
 7 forward, and not just stuck where we have been for the past  
 8 couple of years.  
 9 One other -- well, at least one other question.  
 10 CenturyLink filed or introduced legislation in the last  
 11 legislative session that did not get passed.  
 12 Is CenturyLink anticipating that there will be additional  
 13 legislation in the next legislative session that could kind  
 14 of alter how we proceed?  
 15 MR. SHERR: I'm going to assume that question is for me.  
 16 THE COURT: You assume correctly.  
 17 MR. SHERR: Oh, good. I got one right.  
 18 I am not aware of any. Yeah. I'm not aware of any  
 19 legislative efforts at this point.  
 20 I think we're focusing on trying to avail ourselves of the  
 21 processes available by statute before the commission. So...  
 22 THE COURT: Okay. I appreciate that. Obviously, you  
 23 know, nothing you say about that would be binding.  
 24 MR. SHERR: Yeah. (Inaudible) not aware of anything.  
 25 THE COURT: Yeah. I just want to be mindful of all

1 continue, and what to do with the current AFOR needs to --  
 2 you know, that needs to get underway as well.  
 3 So to answer your question more succinctly, we would not  
 4 object to a January date, and also wouldn't object to  
 5 something earlier than that.  
 6 Thank you.  
 7 THE COURT: Sure. Thank you.  
 8 And I agree with you, or at least my expectation is that  
 9 even if there is some more negotiation to be done in  
 10 January, heaven forbid, that could still progress. You  
 11 know, we'll have another prehearing conference and, you  
 12 know, we can work into the schedule additional negotiations  
 13 if those are necessary and the parties believe they are  
 14 fruitful.  
 15 I, for my part, would just like to see things get started  
 16 by then. And, you know, I recognize that it may be that we  
 17 have to have some wiggle room. I don't see this docket  
 18 continuing.  
 19 I mean, in fact, the requirement in Order 04 is for the  
 20 company to open a new docket for a new AFOR; and that would,  
 21 if necessary, be consolidated with any petition for  
 22 competitive classification.  
 23 I recognize from a procedural standpoint that we may be in  
 24 a situation where we have to look at both at the same time,  
 25 because there is at least the theoretical possibility that

1 factors that --  
 2 MR. SHERR: Sure.  
 3 THE COURT: -- would influence how the schedule works.  
 4 MR. SHERR: (Inaudible).  
 5 THE COURT: The other thing that the commissioners would  
 6 like is periodic updates. We don't want to wait until  
 7 sometime in the future and just, you know, see what gets  
 8 filed. So what they talked about was quarterly updates.  
 9 Is that something that the parties would be willing to  
 10 provide as -- at least between now and any filing in  
 11 January? At least one update, and then another if something  
 12 happens and whatever the filing date is in January comes and  
 13 goes?  
 14 MR. SHERR: Yeah. On behalf of the company, absolutely.  
 15 Obviously we wouldn't want to be talking about the specifics  
 16 of negotiations, as those are confidential, and that  
 17 wouldn't make any sense for those to be publicly described  
 18 when they may or may not be agreed upon.  
 19 But yeah, absolutely, we can provide an update at whatever  
 20 interval the commission would like.  
 21 THE COURT: Yeah. Well, it would just be to make sure  
 22 that things are progressing, and, you know, we don't just  
 23 have somebody say, well, yeah, we're waiting around, and  
 24 it's been two months, but nothing's happened. I mean...  
 25 MR. SHERR: Absolutely.


1 THE COURT: If we need to light a fire under somebody,  
 2 then we want to do it, you know, sooner than January.  
 3 MR. SHERR: Sure. Yeah. I could suggest, yeah, a date  
 4 certain would be great, and absolutely. That's fine.  
 5 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Roberson, from staff's  
 6 perspective, is that something that would be acceptable?  
 7 MR. ROBERSON: Yeah. I think staff would have the same  
 8 concerns that Mr. Sherr just expressed. But if it's just a  
 9 procedural update, absolutely staff can provide that as  
 10 often as the commission would like it.  
 11 THE COURT: And, Ms. Paisner?  
 12 MS. PAISNER: Thank you, Judge Kopta.  
 13 Public counsel wouldn't object to that. I also wanted to  
 14 just add that, respecting confidentiality of those  
 15 discussions, we still have questions, and we don't have a  
 16 position.  
 17 And so I imagine that, you know, updates being somewhat  
 18 limited in what they could provide would, you know, be of  
 19 the nature of, you know, explaining that we're sort of  
 20 engaged in the same discussions or, you know, trying to walk  
 21 that line of not revealing the content of the discussions  
 22 that are -- that's confidential.  
 23 THE COURT: Understood. And I think it really is more in  
 24 the sense of making sure that things are progressing. And,  
 25 you know, we may know more in October about where the status

1 course.  
 2 THE COURT: Okay. No. And that is certainly my  
 3 expectation. So like to think that we're on the same page.  
 4 Is there a date in January that you want to pick out of a  
 5 hat? I mean, we can do it, but if you had some ideas as  
 6 we're sitting here right now...  
 7 MR. SHERR: I'm just looking to see what the weekends are  
 8 in January, if you can bear with me for one moment.  
 9 THE COURT: Sure.  
 10 MR. SHERR: January 15th is fine. It's a Monday.  
 11 THE COURT: It may be Martin Luther King Day.  
 12 MR. SHERR: Ah, perfect. Sure. Let's see. Sure. How  
 13 about January 17th? That's a Wednesday. Probably not  
 14 Martin Luther King.  
 15 THE COURT: That ought to be -- that ought to be safe.  
 16 MR. SHERR: Okay.  
 17 THE COURT: How does that date work for staff?  
 18 MR. ROBERSON: That's fine. Honestly, staff does not  
 19 anticipate this lasting until January. I think either we're  
 20 going to have an agreement before then, or we're not, and  
 21 CenturyLink is going to have to file a petition. So...  
 22 THE COURT: And, Ms. Paisner, I gather that that's  
 23 probably your take on things, too?  
 24 MS. PAISNER: Well, in part. The date is fine for a  
 25 filing. I just wanted to ask the question, is this going to

1 of the negotiations than we do now. I mean, I would hope  
 2 that we would, and have a better idea of what to expect.  
 3 I mean, the January date, in my mind, would just be sort  
 4 of the end. I mean, there's no reason why, if you reach  
 5 agreement, you know, in September that you wouldn't file it  
 6 then.  
 7 So it's not -- we're not setting a date in stone for  
 8 saying this is when the petition would be filed. We're just  
 9 saying that by this date CenturyLink will have filed a  
 10 petition, or I guess, you know, could inform us we're not  
 11 going to file a petition after all, we're just going to go  
 12 with the AFOR.  
 13 So that is my thinking at this point. And I think the  
 14 commissioners just want to be kept in the loop in terms of  
 15 how things are progressing, and what to expect when.  
 16 MR. SHERR: Your Honor, from the company's perspective, as  
 17 soon as we know where we are and reach an agreement or --  
 18 you know, we would file. We would not wait until January.  
 19 We have no incentive to wait. Right?  
 20 This is where -- it may not appear so, but the fact that  
 21 we keep asking for extensions of the AFOR, but we are very  
 22 interested in reaching the end of all of this process as  
 23 well, and just, you know, finding a new regulatory status  
 24 that isn't ever-changing or ever-litigated.  
 25 So yeah. We have the same incentive that you do, of

1 be a date that there must be a filing for a petition for  
 2 competitive classification, or whatever -- at that point  
 3 something needs to be requested on that date, and not just  
 4 an update on the status of negotiations?  
 5 THE COURT: That is the date by which the commission would  
 6 expect to receive a petition for competitive classification.  
 7 If --  
 8 MS. PAISNER: Gotcha.  
 9 THE COURT: If there is not one filed by that date, then  
 10 we would expect there would be something else that would be  
 11 provided in terms of letting the commission know that the  
 12 company is proceeding with an AFOR or, I don't know,  
 13 whatever they're going to do.  
 14 MS. PAISNER: That's acceptable for -- we, again, would  
 15 not object.  
 16 Without a litigation schedule in place, discovery rules  
 17 are not invoked. That is one disadvantage of not having a  
 18 petition filed earlier.  
 19 However, at that point I think, given what the timing  
 20 would be of extending the AFOR, I think that would then  
 21 allow enough time under a separate docket to work through  
 22 issues there.  
 23 And as I said before, I don't believe that filing a  
 24 petition in any way affects the ability of us to continue  
 25 the exact, same conversations we're having now. It just

1 would do it in the context of more formal procedure --  
 2 litigation procedure.  
 3 Thank you.  
 4 THE COURT: Yeah. Well, again, this is just to make sure  
 5 that things keep moving along, from the commission's  
 6 perspective, and that this will be the last at least annual  
 7 extension of the AFOR. And, you know, we just don't want to  
 8 be in this position again a year from now.  
 9 So this is our idea in terms of, you know, having orderly  
 10 updates and a target date for filing a petition. And  
 11 recognizing that the realities may intrude, but at that  
 12 point we would expect probably the company to let us know  
 13 what's going on and provide some idea of what's going to  
 14 happen come next July.  
 15 All right. I think that's the information that we need.  
 16 We will set a date for probably another prehearing  
 17 conference as a status update, I would expect probably  
 18 sometime in October, early October. I don't know that we  
 19 need to set a date right now, unless you all have a date in  
 20 mind. But it will be just sometime, at some time.  
 21 And then it would be a short get-together to see where we  
 22 are -- where you are more specifically, and what progress is  
 23 being made, and how it looks in terms of meeting the January  
 24 filing deadline.  
 25 MS. PAISNER: If I may, Judge Kopta, October 6th is a date

1 CERTIFICATE  
 2 STATE OF WASHINGTON )  
 3 )  
 4 COUNTY OF KING )  
 5 I, the undersigned, do hereby certify under penalty  
 6 of perjury that the foregoing court proceedings or legal  
 7 recordings were transcribed under my direction as a certified  
 8 transcriptionist; and that the transcript is true and accurate to  
 9 the best of my knowledge and ability, including changes, if any,  
 10 made by the trial judge reviewing the transcript; that I received  
 11 the electronic recording directly from the court; that I am not a  
 12 relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the  
 13 parties hereto, nor financially interested in its outcome.  
 14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this  
 15 8th day of August, 2023.  
 16   
 17   
 18 s/ Cynthia M. Allen, RMR, CRR, CRC  
 19  
 20

1 for cross answering testimony in a separate docket, the  
 2 Pacific Corp CEAP docket, and if possible, to avoid that  
 3 October 6th date, we would appreciate that.  
 4 THE COURT: All right. I will keep that in mind. I was  
 5 thinking probably like, you know, mid October, because that  
 6 would be basically three months from now and three months  
 7 before the January deadline.  
 8 So, but I will keep that in mind in terms of avoiding the  
 9 6th. And it would just be --  
 10 MS. PAISNER: Thank you.  
 11 THE COURT: -- us chickens. The commissioners would not  
 12 be involved. So it should be easy to schedule or to move if  
 13 necessary because of some unforeseen conflict.  
 14 All right. Is there anything else that we need to  
 15 discuss? Doesn't sound like it.  
 16 The commission will enter an order in due course. I am  
 17 expecting that we will grant the extension under the  
 18 conditions that we have been discussing today, and hope that  
 19 you all are able to complete negotiations and come up with  
 20 an agreed petition, and we can move forward as expeditiously  
 21 and effortlessly as possible.  
 22 And with that, we are adjourned. Thank you all very much.  
 23 MR. SHERR: Thank you, Judge. Thanks, all.  
 24 MS. PAISNER: Thank you.  
 25 (Conclusion of hearing)

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