

revisions which were made as a result of a new rule change recently adopted in WAC 480-80-133(5).

- 3 CenturyTel states that an exemption from WAC 480-80-103(2)(c), as discussed above, is appropriate because the Companies have maintained the tariffs in a similar way for some time and that it hasn't presented a problem in the past. Additionally, technically complying with the rule would be difficult and could cause the tariff sheet pagination to change even though no rates or services are changing. CenturyTel further submits that no harm will occur with the grant of this request.
- 4 Commission Staff has reviewed the petition and recommends granting CenturyTel's request for exemption. Additionally, Commission Staff recommends allowing the tariff revisions filed in the other dockets to become effective by operation of law.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including telecommunications companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 80.04 RCW and Chapter 80.36 RCW.*
- 6 (2) CenturyTel is engaged in the business of providing telecommunications services within the state of Washington and the Companies are public service companies subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission under the provisions of Chapter 80.36 RCW.
- 7 (3) CenturyTel is subject to the provisions of WAC 480-80-103(2)(c) which requires that the name of a utility issuing a tariff must be specified on each tariff sheet.
- 8 (4) WAC 480-80-015 provides that the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in Chapter 480-80 WAC, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes.
- 9 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 13, 2003.

- 10 (6) After review of the petition filed in Docket UT-031240 by CenturyTel on August 13, 2003, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the limited exemption requested is reasonable and should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) After the effective date of this Order, CenturyTel of Washington, Inc., d/b/a CenturyTel, CenturyTel of Inter Island, Inc., d/b/a CenturyTel and CenturyTel of Cowiche, Inc., d/b/a CenturyTel are granted an exemption from WAC 480-80-103(2)(c). The Companies still must include the name of all issuing utilities on the title sheet of each applicable tariff along with a statement of how the concurring companies delegate their issuing authority to CenturyTel of Washington, Inc., d/b/a CenturyTel (as exemplified in Dockets UT-031151 and UT-031187). The cover letter for each applicable prospective filing must also indicate this arrangement.
- 12 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and CenturyTel of Washington, Inc., d/b/a CenturyTel, CenturyTel of Inter Island, Inc., d/b/a CenturyTel and CenturyTel of Cowiche, Inc., d/b/a CenturyTel to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 13th day of August, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary