Docket No. UT-171082 - Vol. I

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC

February 12, 2018



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		Page 1		Page 3
	BEFORE THE WASHINGTON		1	OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON; FEBRUARY 12, 2018
	UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION		2	10:00 A.M.
	WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND) DOCKET UT-171082 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)		3	000
) Complainant,)		4	PROCEEDINGS
) vs.)		5	
	QUEST CORPORATION D/B/A)		6	JUDGE KOPTA: Let's be on the record in
	CENTURYLINK QC,)		7	Docket UT-171082, captioned, Washington Utilities and
)		8	Transportation Commission versus Quest Corporation d/b/a
	Respondent.)		9	CenturyLink QC.
			10	It is Monday, February 12th, 2018. We are
	PREHEARING CONFERENCE, VOLUME I		11	here at 10 o'clock in the morning at the Commission's
	Pages 1-12		12	offices for a prehearing conference to establish the schedule and take care of some other procedural matters.
	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GREGORY J. KOPTA		14	I am Gregory J. Kopta, the administrative
			15	law judge the Commission has appointed to preside in
	10:00 a.m.		16	this proceeding, and we will begin by taking appearances
	February 12, 2018		17	starting with the Company.
	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission		18	MS. ANDERL: Thank you, Your Honor. My name
	1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW Olympia, Washington 98504		19	is Lisa Anderl. I'm an in-house attorney for
	REPORTED BY: TAYLER GARLINGHOUSE, CCR 3358		20	CenturyLink. I've provided the court reporter with my
			21	contact information on my business card unless you want
	Buell Realtime Reporting, LLC 1325 Fourth Avenue		22	me to give the full appearance.
	Suite 1840 Seattle, Washington 98101		23	JUDGE KOPTA: I do not. I think everyone we
	206.287.9066 Šeattle 360.534.9066 Olympia		24	have contact information for, so we're good.
	800.846.6989 National www.buellrealtime.com		25	MS. ANDERL: Thank you.
		Page 2		Page 4
1 2	A P P E A R A N C E S ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:		1	JUDGE KOPTA: And for Staff?
3	GREGORY J. KOPTA		2	MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Jennifer
				W.C. O' WILL CONTROLL CONTINO
4	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission		3	Cameron-Rulkowski, assistant attorney general appearing
_	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW Olympia, Washington 98504		4	Cameron-Rulkowski, assistant attorney general appearing on behalf of Staff, and I have a notice of appearance on
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whether or not we end up with a schedule that calls for prefiled testimony.

MS. ANDERL: I think, from my perspective, it never hurts to have the discovery rules available and a protective order as well, because there is likely to be some confidential information in the docket. So I would vote yes for both of those.

JUDGE KOPTA: Okay. I'm --

 $\mbox{MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: That's fine with Staff.} \label{eq:ms.cameron}$

JUDGE KOPTA: All right. Then we will make the discovery rules available and enter the standard protective order in this case.

That -- well, yeah, that pretty much concludes my list of things that I wanted to make sure that we covered except for a schedule. I understand that the parties have been working on developing a schedule and you just alluded to a question in terms of what the nature of that schedule is going to be. Do we want to have a discussion about that on the record or shall we talk about it off the record and then memorialize what we talked about on the record?

MS. ANDERL: I think it's always easier to do it off the record.

MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: So one moment.

would be prejudiced if we're not similarly afforded an opportunity to have prefiled direct testimony.

We also think that it would take a lot less time if we have prefiled direct testimony, because I think that oral testimony could take us from what would otherwise be a one-day hearing into a two- or three-day hearing. So we feel very strongly that we should have the usual process, which is prefiled testimony.

I know Staff has said that in Staff's experience, investigative hearing -- hearings on investigation reports or penalty assessments don't usually involve prefiled testimony. In CenturyLink's case, when we had the cable cut in the San Juan Islands and when we had the 911 outage, both of those were hearings on investigation reports, and both of those proceedings did follow the process of prefiled testimony and then a hearing only for purposes of cross-examination and maybe oral argument. So that's -- that's our ask.

JUDGE KOPTA: My understanding from obviously just having read what is in the file is that this is predominantly legal issues as opposed to factual issues. Do you have a different take on it, Ms. Anderl?

MS. ANDERL: Yeah, I think that there are significant public policy issues that will be best

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though. We do have -- we're not fully agreed on the type of schedule, and so that's something -- that's a discussion that we would want to have before we talk about the actual schedule. We have had discussions and the question, the major question here is whether we should have prefiled testimony or have all of the testimony be live at hearing.

And Staff believes that we can that -- although there are -- there are some significant legal issues in this case, Staff believes that that -- that those are best addressed on brief and that having a live hearing is efficient and will save us some time, and we can make our record on -- with a live hearing. And so Staff -- that would be Staff's preference, would be to go forward with a live hearing and -- and then have several rounds of briefing to be able to get into those legal issues.

JUDGE KOPTA: And, Ms. Anderl?
MS. ANDERL: And so when Staff says a live hearing, I understand that to mean no prefiled testimony, but oral, direct, and cross, and we're opposed to that. We would like to have prefiled testimony. We feel that Staff has had a long time to investigate and prepare a lengthy investigative report, which is essentially akin to testimony, and that we

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developed through additional factual evidence. I don't think there's a lot of dispute about the facts in the investigation report, but it's our strong feeling that those are not all of the facts that the Commission should consider when making its decision in this case. There are implications for how the Company operates and service to customers and other types of developments and situations that would be impacted by a decision in this case. And we certainly want to develop an evidentiary record on that.

JUDGE KOPTA: All right. Ms. Gafken, do you have a dog in this fight?

MS. GAFKEN: I don't have a large dog in the fight. I guess I'll just offer a couple of observations. I think there are times when compliance dockets do happen in a live manner. I'll just note that the cases that Public Counsel has been involved in, they have followed the written testimony framework. I do see some value in doing it that way in terms of efficiency. If we do a live testimony framework in this case, for example, I think I would want to do depositions because you don't want to walk into a hearing without knowing what other parties are going to say. And so depositions aren't something that we normally do in the ordinary course, and I think in large part it's because of the

Page 9 Page 11 1 prefiled written testimony. Certainly we do have the 1 Honor. Thank you. 2 2 Staff report, and so we sort of know where Staff is JUDGE KOPTA: And while the Commission 3 going, but we certainly don't know where CenturyLink is 3 requires a settlement conference to be part of any going so -- and other parties may want to depose any 4 4 procedural schedule, I will waive that particular rule 5 witness that I may bring forward as well. 5 in this case because I agree with the parties that it 6 So I think that adds at least a different 6 would not be productive given the fact that this is 7 7 component to the proceeding. I'm not sure any more or largely a legal and policy dispute and not easily 8 less efficient, but I guess I would approach the case 8 susceptible to settlement. That does not mean, however, 9 9 like a normal court case where you have direct -- live, of course, that the parties are still encouraged to have 10 direct testimony and then followed by cross. Those are 10 discussions and to at least narrow issues, agree on 11 just my observations. 11 facts, whatever you can do to minimize the disputes so 12 JUDGE KOPTA: Okay. Thank you. 12 that we crystallize them to the point they are really 13 Ms. Cameron-Rulkowski, did you have anything 13 issues that the Commission needs to resolve. 14 further? 14 So with that, do we have anything further we 15 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: While we're talking 15 need to discuss today? 16 about efficiencies, I guess I would mention that as 16 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Nothing from Staff. 17 we've tried to work together to come up with a schedule 17 MS. ANDERL: Not from the Company. 18 18 MS. GAFKEN: Not from Public Counsel. that works for everyone, as soon as you have those 19 rounds of prefiled testimony, it pushes the schedule 19 JUDGE KOPTA: Then we are adjourned. Thank 20 20 you very much. out. And so the actual effect of having prefiled 21 testimony is that it ends up going a little bit later, 21 (Adjourned at 10:42 a.m.) 22 and I don't -- and that's okay. I certainly want to 22 23 23 have sufficient rounds of briefing, so we need a certain 24 amount of time, I recognize that. But I think that we 24 25 could certainly get the facts out that we need to get 2.5 Page 10 Page 12 1 1 CERTIFICATE out in -- in one -- in a hearing with live testimony. 2 2 JUDGE KOPTA: All right. Well, I will take 3 STATE OF WASHINGTON 3 this under advisement for right now, but I would like to 4 **COUNTY OF THURSTON** 4 have a discussion about schedules under either 5 5 alternative off the record. So let's be off the record 6 I, Tayler Garlinghouse, a Certified Shorthand 6 for right now. 7 Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby 7 (A break was taken from 8 certify that the foregoing transcript is true and 8 10:11 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.) 9 accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability. JUDGE KOPTA: Let's be back on the record. 9 10 10 While we were off the record, we had a discussion about 11 11 scheduling and developed what I believe is a consensus 12 or at least it will be my decision that we will have 12 13 prefiled testimony as part of our procedural schedule. 13 14 And as a result, that schedule will be direct testimony 14 Joyler Garlinghouse 15 from Staff is due April 6th; response testimony from the Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358 15 16 Company and Public Counsel is due June 1st; rebuttal 16 17 from Staff and any cross-answering testimony would be 17 18 due on July 3rd; cross-examination, exhibits, and 18 19 cross-estimates would be due on July 17th. We will have 19 20 an evidentiary hearing pending kind of confirmation of 2.0 21 the hearing room availability on Monday, July 23rd; 21 22 simultaneous opening briefs are due on August 23rd, and 22 23 simultaneous reply briefs due on September 12th. 23 24 24 Have I gotten those dates correct? 25 25 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: I believe so, Your

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