

**In the Matter of the Petition of the Qwest Corporation,
et al.**

Docket No. UT-240029 - Vol. IV

September 16, 2024



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CENTURYLINK COMPANIES - QWEST)
CORPORATION; CENTURYTEL OF)
WASHINGTON; CENTURYTEL OF)
INTERISLAND; CENTURYTEL OF COWICHE;)
AND UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY OF THE)
NORTHWEST)
) DOCKET NO. UT-240029
to be Competitively Classified)
Pursuant to RCW 80.320)
) PAGES 317-326

STATUS CONFERENCE - VOL IV

September 16, 2024

BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

M. HAYLEY CALLAHAN

TAKEN REMOTELY VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

621 Woodland Square Loop SE

Lacey, Washington 98504

TRANSCRIBED BY: ELIZABETH PATTERSON HARVEY, WA CCR 2731

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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4 JUDGE CALLAHAN: -- did not hear. Okay. Now
5 it's recording. Okay. So it wasn't recorded before
6 because she did not hear me. Now it's on the record.

7 Okay. So do either of you want to go ahead and
8 read the schedules in the record?

9 Did you come up with any resolution regarding
10 the schedule?

11 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: We did.

12 I should also point out public counsel is a
13 statutory party. They're also here.

14 JUDGE CALLAHAN: So --

15 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: To the extent that all the
16 parties are here, it's important to me that we be clear
17 that there are three, and they're all in the room.

18 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Okay. So we have the staff,
19 we have the public counsel, and we have the company. All
20 right.

21 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: Yes.

22 JUDGE CALLAHAN: So the --

23 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: In terms of the schedule, I
24 can read it in if you'd like.

25 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Yes, please.

1 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: Okay. So the parties
2 envision a 30-day negotiation period where they would do
3 nothing but negotiate. That will end on October 16th.

4 At that point, they will provide an update to
5 the commission if they feel that negotiations require
6 further time. So basically an update on the progress of
7 settlement talks.

8 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Okay. So I just want to
9 remind you that the AFOR expiration date is going to be
10 on January 9th, 2025. Is it your understanding as well?

11 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: Yes, that's --

12 ATTORNEY SHERR: Your Honor --

13 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: Sorry. Go ahead.

14 ATTORNEY SHERR: Sure, Jeff. Sorry.

15 Yes, your Honor. We do understand that, except
16 that I believe the commission extended it pending the
17 resolution of this case. So as long as the case is still
18 pending, I believe.

19 And Jeff or Tad can correct me if I'm
20 incorrect, but I believe it continues in place until this
21 proceeding, the petition for competitive classification,
22 is resolved either through litigation or through
23 negotiation.

24 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. O'Neill, I'm going
25 to ask for you to speak up. Is that your understanding

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1 as well?

2 ATTORNEY O'NEILL: The parties discussed prior
3 to this hearing, and that was the understanding that the
4 parties reached, that the order -- in the order, it says
5 that the prior AFOR is continued until the resolution of
6 this matter. And so that's -- that has been the working
7 interpretation of the parties.

8 JUDGE CALLAHAN: So good. So everybody is on
9 the same page.

10 So now I have extension 30 days. So is there
11 anything else other than that?

12 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: Yes.

13 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Go ahead, please.

14 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: So assuming that
15 negotiations do not bear fruit, the parties have
16 procedural dates for the remainder of this proceeding.

17 Testimony, both cross answering and rebuttal,
18 would be due November 8th, 2024.

19 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Okay.

20 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: Cross exhibits, cross
21 estimates, and errata would be due November 14th, 2024.

22 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Okay.

23 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: The parties have set aside
24 November 21st and 22nd, 2024, for the hearing.

25 JUDGE CALLAHAN: 21st, okay. Can you bear with

1 me one second? Let me check my calendar.

2 Okay. What day again, please?

3 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: November 21st and 22nd.

4 JUDGE CALLAHAN: 21st, 22nd November. Okay.

5 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: And I should say, I'm not
6 sure that it would be a two-day hearing. But we figured
7 better safe than sorry.

8 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Yes. We can block the dates,
9 you know.

10 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: Yes. Briefs would be due
11 December 20th, 2024.

12 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Okay.

13 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: And by statute, it's
14 modified by Lumen's agreement to extend the six-month
15 deadline.

16 The order for final disposition of this matter
17 would be due January 17th, 2025.

18 ATTORNEY SHERR: And CenturyLink confirms that
19 we're willing to extend the deadline to accommodate these
20 discussions and the schedule.

21 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Okay. Good.

22 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: We did not provide for an
23 additional public comment hearing because the commission
24 has already held some.

25 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Right. Right.

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1 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: But if the commissioners
2 believe that that would be fruitful, you know, if you
3 reach out, we will help you schedule some.

4 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Mr. O'Neill, do you think it's
5 necessary to provide public additional public comment or
6 public hearing, public comment hearing?

7 ATTORNEY O'NEILL: I don't, Your Honor. There
8 has been robust participation by the public in two
9 separate public comment hearings, as well as through a
10 very robust public comment exhibit that was filed in the
11 last hearing. So I don't think that it's necessary.

12 But as Mr. Roberson indicated, public counsel
13 is willing to facilitate another one if the commission or
14 commissioners believe that it is.

15 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Okay. Do you anticipate to
16 submit more public comment?

17 Right now, we issued the order. Do you
18 anticipate to submit additional public comments?

19 ATTORNEY O'NEILL: I don't. The public
20 comments, both of them were premised off of a notice for
21 a competitive classification, so the exact issue that's
22 being resolved here.

23 So I believe that the commission has received
24 pertinent public comment, and that will be applicable to
25 this hearing. So we may resubmit it, but I don't

1 anticipate opening -- reopening the record.

2 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Okay, okay. All right. I'm
3 clear.

4 Okay. Is there anything else you need to read
5 into the record?

6 I'm going back to Mr. Roberson. Okay. Is
7 there anything else you need to read into the record?

8 ATTORNEY ROBERSON: Not at this time.

9 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Okay, so I'm going to go
10 around with each party.

11 Mr. Sherr, is there any concern, any issues you
12 need to address today?

13 ATTORNEY SHERR: No, thank you. Thank you,
14 your Honor.

15 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Okay.

16 Mr. O'Neill, any issue, any concern you need to
17 -- you want us to address today?

18 ATTORNEY O'NEILL: No, thank you. No, there's
19 -- the parties have all discussed this, and I think this
20 is an agreed order.

21 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Okay. So in that case, I will
22 issue an order shortly containing the procedural schedule
23 and the other guidelines for the disposition of this
24 case.

25 And now we are adjourned.

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1 ATTORNEY SHERR: Thank you, your Honor.

2 ATTORNEY O'NEILL: Thank you, your Honor.

3 JUDGE CALLAHAN: Thank you. Bye.

4 (Proceedings concluded at 1:50 p.m.)

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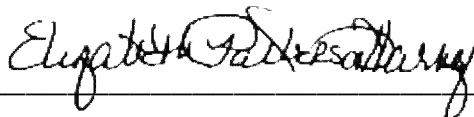

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STATE OF WASHINGTON)
) ss
COUNTY OF KING)

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 30th day of September, 2024.

Elizabeth Patterson Harvey, CCR 2731