BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| In the Matter of the Joint Application of  QWEST COMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONAL INC. AND CENTURYTEL, INC.  For Approval of Indirect Transfer of Control of Qwest Corporation, Qwest Communications Company LLC, and Qwest LD Corp. | DOCKET UT-100820  COMMISSION STAFF’S RESPONSE TO QWEST’S AND CENTURYLINK’S JOINT MOTION FOR IN-CAMERA REVIEW |

1. Qwest’s and CenturyLink’s (Joint Applicants’) Request for *In Camera* Review of Highly Sensitive Documents and Request for Oral Argument concerns documents contained in the companies’ respective Hart-Scott-Rodino (HSR) filings. This same universe of documents was at issue in Joint Applicants’ July 15th motion to supplement the protective order. In that motion, Joint Applicants proposed preventing parties other than Staff and Public Counsel from accessing certain HSR documents (the “staff eyes only” proposal). On July 27, Staff filed a response to that motion.
2. In its July 27th response, Staff opposed the Joint Applicants’ staff eyes only proposal, noting that establishing a “third level” of confidentiality would represent a marked and heretofore unnecessary departure from Commission practice. In particular, Staff expressed concerns that the staff eyes only proposal would harm intervenors’ ability to advocate their positions, impose additional administrative burdens resulting from managing a third level of confidentiality, and establish a precedent for seeking additional levels of confidentiality.
3. Joint Applicants’ request for in camera review implicate the same documents and the same issues as did the staff eyes only proposal. Accordingly, in response to Joint Applicants’ request, Staff reiterates the concerns raised in its July 27th response.

DATED this 15th day of September, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT M. MCKENNA

Attorney General

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

JENNIFER CAMERON-RULKOWSKI

Assistant Attorney General

Counsel for Washington Utilities and

Transportation Commission Staff