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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON

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UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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In the Matter of the Petition of ) Docket UT-151296

5 ) Pages 1 - 11

QWEST CORPORATION d/b/a )

6 CENTURYLINK QC )

)

7 For Commission Approval of 2015 )

Additions to its Non-Impaired )

8 Wire Center List )

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PREHEARING CONFERENCE

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VOLUME I

12 PAGES 1 - 11

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GREGORY J. KOPTA

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9:30 A.M.

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JULY 29, 2015

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17 Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

1300 South Evergreen Park Drive Southwest, Room 139

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Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

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1 OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON; JULY 29, 2015

2 9:30 A.M.

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5 P R O C E E D I N G S

6 JUDGE KOPTA: Let's be on the record in

7 Docket UT-151296, captioned In the Matter of the Petition

8 for Commission Approval of 2015 Additions to Non-Impaired

9 Wire Center List from CenturyLink.

10 Today is Wednesday, July 29th, at 9:30 a.m.,

11 and we are here for a prehearing conference to resolve

12 procedural issues in this matter.

13 My name is Gregory Kopta. I'm the

14 administrative law judge who is assigned to preside over

15 this matter; and we will start by taking appearances,

16 beginning with the petitioner.

17 MS. ANDERL: Thank you, Your Honor. My name

18 is Lisa Anderl, and I'm an in-house attorney with

19 CenturyLink. Do you want my full appearance?

20 JUDGE KOPTA: Well, it's part of your

21 pleading, so I don't think we need that.

22 MS. ANDERL: Okay. Yeah. I believe my

23 e-mail and my phone and my mailing address are all included

24 in the pleading.

25 JUDGE KOPTA: All right. Terrific.

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1 And Commission Staff?

2 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Jennifer

3 Cameron-Rulkowski, assistant attorney general, appearing on

4 behalf of Commission Staff. I have filed a notice of

5 appearance in this docket, and all of my contact

6 information is contained therein.

7 JUDGE KOPTA: Terrific.

8 And Mr. Denney?

9 MR. DENNEY: This is Douglas Denney with

10 Integra, and I am Integra's vice president of cost and

11 policy, and I'm representing the company in this matter.

12 JUDGE KOPTA: And we have a petition to

13 intervene on behalf of Integra that has all of your contact

14 information.

15 MR. DENNEY: Yes. Thank you.

16 JUDGE KOPTA: So let's start with

17 interventions. As I say, the Commission received a

18 petition to intervene from Integra. Are there any

19 objections to Integra intervening in this docket?

20 MS. ANDERL: Your Honor, on behalf of

21 CenturyLink, no, there are not.

22 JUDGE KOPTA: Okay. Thank you.

23 And I assume, since you two are the only ones

24 on the line and the rest of us in the room are all

25 familiar, that no one else is seeking to intervene in this

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1 proceeding.

2 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: And Commission Staff

3 has no objection to Integra's intervention.

4 JUDGE KOPTA: All right. Excellent. Then

5 that intervention is granted.

6 We've already issued or entered a protective

7 order, so that's taken care of.

8 Discovery. Is there a need to make the

9 discovery rules available?

10 MS. ANDERL: Your Honor, for CenturyLink, we

11 don't -- would not seek to do discovery from any other

12 party, and after issuance of the protective order, we did

13 respond to an informal request from Integra to provide the

14 confidential information, and we did provide that

15 information, so unless Integra thinks they want anything

16 else, I would say we'd probably forgo that.

17 JUDGE KOPTA: Okay. Mr. Denney, does that

18 accord with your views?

19 MR. DENNEY: Yes, Your Honor. At this -- at

20 this point in time, after reviewing that data, we do not

21 have further discovery questions.

22 JUDGE KOPTA: All right. Well, then, we will

23 hold that in abeyance, at least for now.

24 The other thing that I wanted to ask is, is

25 everyone willing to agree to electronic service only, if

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1 the Commission were to go that route?

2 MS. ANDERL: For CenturyLink, yes.

3 MR. DENNEY: Integra, yes.

4 JUDGE KOPTA: Commission Staff?

5 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: I'm going to say yes.

6 We have a -- we still have a paper process in our office,

7 but I'm going to say yes.

8 JUDGE KOPTA: Good. We haven't yet gotten to

9 that point at the Commission where we're doing electronic

10 service only in all dockets. We have a couple of dockets

11 where we have been doing it on a trial basis.

12 My own personal view is that the Commission

13 should be doing that all the time, but I realize that I'm a

14 little ahead of what the capabilities are. But I want to

15 make sure that, if this proceeding continues and we are in

16 a position where we're doing electronic service, that we

17 can do that without running crosswise with the statutory

18 obligations the Commission has for service.

19 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Your Honor, if I can

20 jump in just to clarify, our office is fine with electronic

21 service from the Commission. Are we also talking about

22 electronic service of any documents between the parties?

23 JUDGE KOPTA: That would be my anticipation,

24 is that service would be entirely electronic.

25 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Thank you for the

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1 clarification.

2 JUDGE KOPTA: Yes.

3 I think that's it, except for scheduling, and

4 perhaps that is something that you, the parties, have

5 discussed before now that they would like to enlighten me

6 as to what arrangements they think are appropriate.

7 MS. ANDERL: Yeah, Your Honor. I can go

8 ahead with that.

9 In conversations, we have been -- and

10 somebody correct me if I'm wrong, obviously, but I think

11 what we have determined was that we would ask you to set a

12 deadline of August 19th for parties to file any comments in

13 the docket; and based on those comments, there would be a

14 decision point at that point whether the Commission could

15 just proceed to decide the matter on a paper record or if,

16 at that point, we would schedule a status conference to see

17 kind of next steps.

18 As we recall, there was a status conference

19 scheduled in the last docket in 2013, but we ended up

20 canceling it because we didn't need it, so.

21 JUDGE KOPTA: All right. So you would

22 anticipate that comments would be filed on August 19th and

23 then the Commission would make a determination based on

24 those comments as to whether we need a status conference?

25 MS. ANDERL: Yeah. Whether we need a status

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1 conference or whether the Commission can just, you know,

2 proceed directly to an order in -- in the docket.

3 JUDGE KOPTA: Okay.

4 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: And, Your Honor --

5 MS. ANDERL: We're hope- -- we're hopeful

6 that, you know, Integra will not have any objections or

7 concerns to our designations and that, if they do, the time

8 between now and August 19th would be when we could work it

9 out, and then it would all kind of come out in the comments

10 where we -- where we were at that point.

11 JUDGE: Okay. Ms. Cameron-Rulkowski?

12 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Staff would

13 anticipate that if any of the parties wanted to have a

14 status conference, that that could be mentioned in the

15 comments filed on August 19th.

16 JUDGE KOPTA: Yes. That would be my

17 preference as well or my -- certainly, my understanding, if

18 that's the route that we're going to take.

19 I have no problem with taking that approach.

20 I know from the last docket that we did involving wire

21 center designations, it was pretty much a nonevent. Once

22 parties had had a chance to take a look at CenturyLink's

23 filing, that was pretty much it.

24 So it may be that way this time, but

25 certainly setting up a comment deadline will flesh that

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1 out, and there's no sense in setting a schedule at this

2 point if we, very likely, will not need it.

3 So I will enter a prehearing conference order

4 that includes that requirement and anticipate that, as a

5 result of those comments, the Commission will take whatever

6 further action is appropriate.

7 MS. ANDERL: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

8 There is one other thing I wanted to note,

9 and that is that we did file an errata yesterday -- and I'm

10 suddenly worried that we might not have served Integra.

11 Doug, did I serve you with that errata?

12 MR. DENNEY: I do not think I saw that.

13 MS. ANDERL: Shoot. Okay. My bad. Could we

14 just take a minute to discuss that?

15 There is a wire center that is -- and I'll

16 forward that to you right away. We didn't have the course

17 of service list that included you because there's just

18 no -- or we're just now having the prehearing conference.

19 On pages 1 and 4 and also on Attachment 1, we

20 had designated a wire center as Spokane Whitehall, but

21 there is no such thing. It's Spokane Whitworth. The CLLI

22 code was correct -- and when I say, "CLLI," that's all

23 caps, C-L-L-I -- but the -- but the -- just the name

24 designation was -- was incorrect.

25 And -- and we filed an errata yesterday

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1 with -- with that. I don't know if that changes anything,

2 but, you know, Doug, certainly feel free to contact me and

3 talk to me about that.

4 JUDGE KOPTA: Well, I will --

5 MR. DENNEY: I will do that if I need to.

6 Oops. Excuse me.

7 JUDGE KOPTA: No. That's all right. I was

8 just going to say, I believe the parties can have that

9 discussion if there are any concerns about that.

10 Obviously, it's just, in my view, a minor

11 correction. Since the CLLI code is the same, we're talking

12 about a particular wire center, what -- if the name is

13 wrong, then correcting it seems appropriate, but I will

14 leave that to the parties to let me know if that's any kind

15 of an issue.

16 MS. ANDERL: All right. Thanks.

17 And Doug, I'll make sure you get that later

18 today. I, for some reason, already can't find it in my

19 e-mail, but -- when it was copied to me internally, but I

20 will send that to you posthaste.

21 JUDGE KOPTA: All right. Is there anything

22 else that we need to take care of this morning?

23 Hearing nothing, we are adjourned. Thank

24 you.

25 (Proceedings concluded at 9:40 a.m.)

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3 STATE OF WASHINGTON

4 COUNTY OF KING

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6 I, Ryan Ziegler, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in

7 and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the

8 foregoing transcript of the proceedings held July 29, 2015,

9 is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill, and

10 ability.

11 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand

12 and seal this August 5, 2015.

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RYAN ZIEGLER, RPR, CCR

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