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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
QWEST CORPORATION d/b/a	)	Pages 1 - 11
CENTURYLINK QC	)	
	)	
For Commission Approval of 2015	)	
Additions to its Non-Impaired	)	
Wire Center List	)	
	)	

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PREHEARING CONFERENCE

11

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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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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C E R T I F I C A T E

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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.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand  
and seal this August 5, 2015.

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RYAN ZIEGLER, RPR, CCR

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