

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)
Section 63.71 Application of)
CenturyLink, Inc., f/k/a Qwest Corporation)
For Authority to Discontinue Busy Line)
Verification and Busy Line Interrupt Services)

RECEIVED
MAY 09 2016
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION

Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act and Section 63.71 of the Commission's rules,¹ CenturyLink, Inc. f/k/a Qwest Corporation (CenturyLink) applies for authority to discontinue its wholesale interstate Busy Line Verification (BLV) and Busy Line Interrupt (BLI) operator services that are offered through CenturyLink's FCC Tariff No. 11 in CenturyLink's legacy Qwest Corporation territory. CenturyLink requests authority to discontinue these services as of July 15, 2016².

CenturyLink submits the following information in support of its application:

1. Name and address of carrier

CenturyLink
100 CenturyLink Drive
Monroe, LA 71203

2. Date of planned service discontinuance

The anticipated date for discontinuing service is July 15, 2016.

¹ 47 U.S.C. § 214; 47 C.F.R. § 63.71.

² CenturyLink, Inc. filed discontinuance applications for the identical services provided by its CenturyTel, Inc. and Embarq affiliates on March 30, 2016 and April 12, 2016, respectively.

3. Points of geographic areas of service affected

CenturyLink seeks authority to discontinue the provision of these BLV and BLI services in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

4. Brief description of the type of services affected

Busy Line Verification is a wholesale service that CenturyLink offers to other carriers—generally interexchange carriers—to determine and report the status of a CenturyLink end user's exchange service line—specifically whether the end user is engaged in a conversation or the line is out of service. This service is provided, upon request, by a CenturyLink operator to the other carrier's operator.

Busy Line Interrupt is a wholesale service that CenturyLink offers to other carriers to interrupt a conversation on a CenturyLink end user's verified busy line and inform the end user that an attempt to place a call on that line is being made. The CenturyLink operator does not connect the other carrier's operator to the telephone line user, but merely informs the end user customer of the pending call. It is up to the CenturyLink end user to terminate its call to allow the incoming call to be made by the other carrier's end user.

CenturyLink is seeking to discontinue these services due to a lack of demand. In 2015 CenturyLink received 30 requests for BLV service and the last request CenturyLink received for BLI service was in July of 2014.

There is no reason to believe this situation will change, given the nearly ubiquitous availability of alternative means of communication, including mobile phones, text messaging, email and social media.

5. Brief description of the dates and methods of notice to all affected customers

On May 2, 2016, CenturyLink sent affected wholesale customers official notice by email through its Customer Communications Data Base (CCDB). (See Attachment A.) CenturyLink has used CCDB for several years for virtually all communications with its wholesale customers, including information on system outages, network notifications, product information, rate changes, and changes to other terms and conditions. When CenturyLink first began using this system, it notified all wholesale customers that, going forward, it would be communicating important information about their wholesale services through the CCDB system.

Each email sent via the CCDB system includes a statement directing the wholesale customer to notify CenturyLink of any changes to its email address. Wholesale customers can also update this information in CCDB themselves. When this customer notice was sent by email, the emails for two customers bounced back. CenturyLink re-sent the customer notice to those customers by U.S. Mail on May 3, 2016.

6. Dominance of carrier with respect to the service to be discontinued

CenturyLink is a dominant carrier with regard to the BLV and BLI services.

In cases of conflict between the changes implemented through this CMP and any CLEC interconnection agreement (whether based on the CenturyLink SGAT or not), the rates, terms and conditions of such interconnection agreement shall prevail as between CenturyLink and the CLEC party to such interconnection agreement. In addition, if changes implemented through this CMP do not necessarily present a direct conflict with a CLEC interconnection agreement, but would abridge or expand the rights of a party to such agreement, the rates, terms and conditions of such interconnection agreement shall prevail as between CenturyLink and the CLEC party to such agreement.

Note: To view your CenturyLink Wholesale notifications online, please log into our ANR (Accessible Notices Repository) at : <http://notices.centurylinkapps.com>.

If you would like to subscribe, unsubscribe or change your current profile to CenturyLink Wholesale mailouts please go to the 'Subscribe/Unsubscribe' web site and follow the subscription instructions. The site is located at:
<http://www.centurylink.com/wholesale/notices/cnla/maillist.html>

The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. You may file your comments electronically through the FCC's Electronic Filing System using the docket number established in the Commission's public notice for this proceeding, or address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the Sec. 63.71 Application of CenturyLink. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

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Qwest Communications 120 Lenora St, 11th Floor Seattle WA 98121

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Marjorie Herlth, do hereby certify that I have caused the foregoing **SECTION 63.71**

APPLICATION to be:

- 1) Filed with the Secretary of the FCC via ECFS (Inbox-Section 214 Domestic Discontinuance Application);
- 2) Served via first-class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on the Governors of the States listed on the attached service list;
- 3) Served via first-class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on the Public Utility Commissions listed on the attached service list; and
- 4) Served via first-class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on the Special Assistant for Telecommunications under the Secretary of Defense.



Marjorie Herlth

May 4, 2016

Doug Ducey
Office of the Governor
Executive Tower
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996

John W. Hickenlooper
Office of the Governor
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203-1792

Colorado Public Utilities Commission
Suite 250
1560 Broadway
Denver, CO 80202

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
P. O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 8372

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P. O. B 83720-0074
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Terry Branstad
Office of the Governor
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Iowa Utilities Board
Room 69
1375 East Court Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319-0069

Mark Dayton
Office of the Governor
116 Veterans Service Building
20 W. 12th Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East
Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

Steve Bullock
Office of the Governor
P. O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Montana Public Service Commission
P. O. B 202601
Helena, MT 59620-2601

Pete Ricketts
Office of the Governor
Lincoln Office/State Capitol
P. O. Box 94848
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

Nebraska Public Service Commission
Suite 300
1200 N Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Susana Martinez
Office of the Governor
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
1120 Paseo de Peralta
P.O. Box 1269
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Jack Dalrymple
Office of the Governor
600 E Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0001

North Dakota Public Service Commission
Department 408
600 E Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Kate Brown
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street, NE
Suite 160
Salem, OR 97301

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
P.O. Box 1088
Salem, OR 97308-1088

Dennis Daugaard
Office of the Governor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Gary Herbert
Office of the Governor
350 North State Street, Suite 200
P.O. Box 142220
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2220

Public Service Commission of Utah
Heber M. Wells Building
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
P. O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Washington Utilities and Transportation
Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Matt Mead
Office of the Governor
2323 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0010

Wyoming Public Service Commission
Hansen Building
2515 Warren Avenue
Suite 300
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Secretary of Defense
Attn. Special Assistant for Telecommunications
Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301