

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**In the Matter of the Request of Qwest Corporation Docket No. TC19-039
dba CenturyLink QC for Certification Regarding
Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
(Study Area: 395145)**

**QWEST CORPORATION DBA CENTURYLINK QC'S
RESPONSES TO THE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION STAFF'S DATA REQUESTS**

Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC ("CenturyLink"), for its responses to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff's Data Requests, states as follows:

- 1-1. Provide a two-year service quality plan for years 2020 and 2021. In the plan, provide:
- a. How service quality, signal quality, coverage, or capacity will improve due to the receipt of high-cost support.
 - b. The projected start date and completion date for each improvement and the estimated amount of investment for each project that is funded by high-cost support.
 - c. Specific geographic areas where the improvements will be made.
 - d. The estimated population that will be served as a result of the improvements.
 - e. If the Company believes that improvements at a particular wire center are not needed, explain the basis for this determination and demonstrate how funding will otherwise be used to further the provision of supported services in that area.

Response:

See Confidential Attachment 1-1.

- a. As an incumbent ILEC, CenturyLink continually strives to meet customer needs in a timely, economic, and efficient way. CenturyLink has developed a local network in South Dakota that meets and/or exceeds industry and state standards for signal and service quality. CenturyLink continually reviews the network for evolving service needs and opportunities for

prudent, long-term enhancement of the infrastructure. CenturyLink provides South Dakota consumers in rural, insular, and high-cost areas access to telecommunication services that is reasonably comparable to the access and at rates that are reasonably comparable of those charged for similar services in urban areas.

b. Specific jobs have not been engineered for 2020 and 2021 with coincident start and stop dates, nor will they be engineered or constructed until calendar years 2020 and 2021. CenturyLink's planning horizon is six-to-eight months, so planning for 2020 projects will not begin until later in 2019. CenturyLink's planning and projected estimates are of a tentative nature and should not be interpreted to be approved, engineered and ordered for installation. Plans are "snapshots" in time and may change due to variations in growth trends (+/-), competitive considerations, weather impacts, natural disasters, regulatory requirements, or changes in vendor equipment. For any high-cost wire center during the two-year planning period, resources may be shifted, reduced, increased, deferred, or taken off the "drawing board" altogether. Continual planning and engineering evaluation during the annual planning cycle are required to meet service needs throughout the high-cost wire centers in South Dakota. Expenditures are spread across the high-cost wire centers as community needs dictated growth or preservation requirements.

c. See Confidential Attachment 1-1 for the wire centers where CenturyLink currently estimates capital expenditures.

d. See Confidential Attachment 1-1 for the wire centers where CenturyLink currently estimates capital expenditures. CenturyLink doesn't estimate the population that would be served in 2020 and 2021 through capital expenditures that may occur in those years.

business pay the amount in excess of \$675. Once the amount has been paid, CenturyLink will schedule installation and connect the consumer or business to CenturyLink's network.

Dated this 25 day of July, 2019.

QWEST CORPORATION DBA
CENTURYLINK QC



Jason D. Topp
200 South Fifth Street, Room 2200
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(651) 312-5364
Jason.topp@centurylink.com