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VIA ECFS

Mr. Trent Harkrader
Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, WC Docket No. 19-126; Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; The Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (Auction 904), AU Docket No. 20-34

Dear Mr. Harkrader:

Lumen Technologies, Inc., through its affiliates Qwest Corporation and CenturyTel of Wyoming, Inc., was awarded Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (“RDOF”) funding to deploy gigabit speed Internet service in areas of Colorado, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Through this letter, Lumen notifies the Commission that it is returning nine census block groups (“CBGs”) where it was awarded RDOF funding in those states. Please see the attached list of CBGs, by state, where Lumen intends to relinquish its RDOF awards.

Lumen has observed deployment costs increase dramatically in many areas since it made its bids. In addition, in some areas, the number of locations to be deployed to is substantially different from the initial published auction numbers. As a result of these and other factors, Lumen’s planned RDOF deployment projects in these CBGs are not viable.

Lumen is returning these CBGs so that they may become eligible for other federal, state, or local subsidy programs, such as the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (“BEAD”) Program. Lumen is also notifying the relevant state broadband offices of its intent to return the locations in the affected CBGs and their potential eligibility for alternative funding.

Lumen understands that it will no longer be entitled to receive further RDOF support for the surrendered CBGs and that it may be subject to applicable non-compliance rules. Lumen reserves its right to seek relief from any penalties, including via waiver of the Commission's rules, as well as its right to seek other relief.

Please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph C. Cavender

cc: Jesse Jachman
Heidi Lankau
Suzanne Yellen

Census Block Groups to be Relinquished

Colorado (Study Area Code 465102)

80659619001
80370006001
80130137026
80370002001

New Mexico (Study Area Code 495105)

350069415001
350350006011
350459433001

South Dakota (Study Area Code 39514)

460879646001

Wyoming (Study Area Code 512299)

560350001022