

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

**In the Matter of the Request of Qwest
Corporation dba CenturyLink QC for
Certification Regarding Its Use of
Federal Universal Service Support**

Docket No. TC26-019

REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT OF INFORMATION

Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC requests the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to approve confidential treatment for the below-identified information pursuant to Administrative Rules of South Dakota (ARSD) § 20:10:01:41.

1. Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC (Qwest) requests confidential protection and treatment of the confidential portions of Data Request SD-PUC-01-5A regarding company's document identifying the cause of the outage, 1-1 regarding the company's document analyzing the outage. The information is marked "CONFIDENTIAL DATA RESPONSE 1-1."

2. The document must be protected for the life of this Docket. When the Docket is closed, all protected information must be returned to Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC.

3. Please refer all inquiries regarding this filing to:

Ricardo L. Gutierrez
Director Regulatory Affairs
(303) 992-5828
rick.gutierrez@lumen.com

4. The claim for protection is based on ARSD § 20:10:01:39 (4) and SDCL § 37-29-1 (4). The information contained within the confidential portions of this report meets the definition of “trade secret” under the SDCL § 37-29-1(4), the South Dakota Uniform Trade Secret Act, which defines the term as information that “[d]erives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.”

5. The factual basis that qualifies the information for confidentiality is as follows: The material noted as Confidential is confidential, proprietary business information concerning company’s document identifying the cause of the outage and the company’s document analyzing the outage which Qwest does not disclose to the public. This information meets the definition of “trade secret” under the SDCL §37-29-1(4), defined as information that “[d]erives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use, and... is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.” This information also meets the definition of “proprietary information” under SDCL § 1-27-28, which is defined as “information on pricing, costs, revenue, taxes, market share, customers, and personnel held by private entities and used for that private entity’s business purposes.”

Accordingly, Qwest respectfully requests that the Commission authorize confidential protection and treatment of this information.

The information for which confidential treatment is requested has been marked “CONFIDENTIAL” and is being transmitted electronically as a separate document.

Date: August 21, 2026

Respectfully submitted,
CENTURYLINK QC

/s/ *Rick L. Gutierrez*

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