

NEWS RELEASE
MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 25, 2013

CONTACT: Gary Duncan, (406) 444-6189

CENTURYLINK FULFILLS BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT COMMITMENT TO PSC
WITH COMPLETION OF ST. MARY BROADBAND PROJECT

St. Mary Customers May Sign Up For One Year of Free DSL Service

St. Mary residents are now able subscribe to the same high-speed Internet service that other residents of the state have enjoyed for years – and at no charge for the first year of service, the Public Service Commission announced today.

CenturyLink has mailed postcards to its St. Mary customers to notify them of the availability of digital subscriber line (DSL) service and inform them how to sign up. In order to get the year of free service, St. Mary customers must call CenturyLink to subscribe to DSL service no later than October 21.

Deployment of broadband service to St. Mary by CenturyLink marks the completion of CenturyLink's commitment to extend high-speed Internet service to 27 underserved areas of the state. That commitment was part of a 2008 agreement between Qwest and the PSC. CenturyLink purchased Qwest in 2010 and assumed the company's DSL deployment obligations.

The permitting process delayed CenturyLink's efforts to extend broadband service to St. Mary, and the PSC late last year granted CenturyLink an extension to complete the work. The company agreed at the time to provide one month of free DSL service for each month beyond Sept. 1, 2012 that the project was delayed. The offer is limited to 12 months of free service for qualifying St. Mary customers who subscribe to DSL by October 21. Subscribers will receive a waiver of the monthly recurring charge for DSL service. The offer includes up to 1.5 Mbps high-speed Internet service.

The 27 rural Montana communities to which DSL service has been extended as a result of the PSC/CenturyLink agreement include: Amsterdam, Boulder, Bridger, Canyon Ferry, Cascade, Clancy, Clyde Park, Cooke City, Darby, Dutton, East Glacier, Forsyth, Fromberg, Gardiner, Joliet, Opportunity, Park City, Pray, Roberts, St. Mary, Townsend, Ulm, Victor, Warm Springs, West Glacier, Wilsall and Wolf Creek.

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