

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA**

In re the Commission’s Investigation into the Adequacy of Legacy Infrastructure Operated by Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC	Docket 2021.12.136 August 22, 2023
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Notice of Public Hearing

On December 7, 2021, the Montana Public Service Commission (“Commission”) opened an investigation into the adequacy of legacy infrastructure owned and operated by CenturyLink Communications, LLC and its affiliated Montana Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers, CenturyTel of Montana and Qwest Corporation d/b/a/ CenturyLink/QC (collectively “CenturyLink”). Subsequently, the Montana Consumer Counsel (“MCC”) petitioned for and was granted intervention; the Commission and the MCC conducted discovery concerning CenturyLink’s legacy infrastructure; and the Commission ordered CenturyLink to submit a proposal to the Commission to resolve certain service quality issues. On December 19, 2022, CenturyLink filed a Proposal for Resolution of the Investigation and Petition for Temporary Waiver (“Proposal”). After CenturyLink filed its Proposal, the Commission conducted discovery concerning CenturyLink’s Proposal.

On July 12, 2023, the Commission issued Procedural Order 7825i which established a variety of substantive and procedural deadlines for this docket. Among the procedural deadlines, Procedural Order 7825i established a hearing date. The purpose of the hearing is primarily to receive evidence and argument on

whether the Commission should waive Mont. Admin. R. 38.5.3371(7)(b) (the “Out of Service Rule”) with respect to CenturyLink’s service, and if so, under what terms and conditions. Among the terms and conditions to be considered is CenturyLink’s proposal to issue one-time \$1,500 payments to customers affected by CenturyLink’s Anaconda or Go Digital system and facilities in exchange for a six-year waiver of the Commission’s Out of Service Rule or any alternative terms and conditions that should apply to CenturyLink’s service.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Commission will conduct a public hearing on CenturyLink’s Proposal. **The public hearing will commence on September 11, 2023, at 9:00 AM**, in the Commission’s Bollinger Room, located at 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana 59601. The hearing will be live streamed on the Commission’s website (<http://psc.mt.gov>). The hearing will continue from day to day, as necessary. Testimony submitted at the hearing is subject to cross-examination. The Commission will provide an opportunity for in-person public comment at the beginning of each hearing day.

Copies of CenturyLink’s Proposal are publicly available at the following locations: the Commission’s business office, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, and online at the Commission’s website (<http://psc.mt.gov>) under Docket No. 2021.12.136. A copy of CenturyLink’s Proposal may also be available at the office of the Montana Consumer Counsel, which represents consumer interests before the Commission, located at 111 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 1B, Helena, Montana, (406) 444-2771. Interested parties can register on the Commission’s website to receive notice of filings in this docket. Instructions for subscribing to notices of filings in contested cases are available at psc.mt.gov/reddi-help.

Anyone needing accommodations in order to attend or participate in the hearing should contact the Commission at 1-800-646-6150. The Commission will make every effort to assist in accommodations for individuals.

The Commission’s jurisdiction over this matter is provided in Title 69 and Title 2, Chapter 4 of the Montana Code Annotated, and Title 38, Chapters 2 and 5

of the Montana Administrative Rules, and any prior orders of the Commission relevant to the issues presented.

Done and Dated this 22nd day of August 2023, by the Montana Public Service Commission, through delegation to staff.

JAMES BROWN, President
JENNIFER FIELDER, Vice President
TONY O'DONNELL, Commissioner
RANDALL PINOCCI, Commissioner
Dr. ANNIE BUKACEK, Commissioner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the 22nd day of August, 2023, a true and accurate copy of the foregoing document was served by email to the following:

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Email List:
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Commission Orders

For the purpose of Public Notice, this document has been sent to the following media outlet(s):

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By: */s/ Tarin Slayton*

Tarin Slayton
Montana Public Service Commission