

Docket No.
14-999-03

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

UTAH PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

2014 SEP -3 A 11:59

In the Matter of)
)
Section 63.71 Application of)
)
CenturyLink, Inc. f/k/a CenturyTel, Inc.)
)
For Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of)
the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended,)
to Discontinue the Provision of Service)

RECEIVED

SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION

CenturyLink, Inc. f/k/a CenturyTel, Inc. (CenturyLink) hereby applies for authority pursuant to Section 63.71 of the Federal Communications Commission's (Commission) rules, 47 C.F.R. § 63.71, and Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214, to discontinue its Frame Relay (CenturyTel Frame Relay) and Asynchronous Transfer Mode (CenturyTel ATM) services throughout its service area. This Application is a component of CenturyLink's ongoing initiative to retire all of its Frame Relay and ATM services and transition affected customers to more current and capable technologies.¹

¹ Concurrent with this Application, CenturyLink is filing an application to discontinue the Frame Relay and ATM services provided by its Embarq affiliate. *See In the Matter of Section 63.71 Application of Embarq Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink, Inc. for Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, To Discontinue the Provision of Service, Section 63.71 Application* (filed Aug. 26, 2014). Last year, CenturyLink filed a similar application for its Qwest Communications Company affiliate. *See In the Matter of Section 63.71 Application of Qwest Communications Company LLC d/b/a CenturyLink QCC for Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, To Discontinue the Provision of Service, WC Docket 13-266, Section 63.71 Application* (filed Oct. 31, 2013). That application remains pending. *See Application of Qwest Communications Company LLC d/b/a CenturyLink QCC To Discontinue Domestic Telecommunications Services Not Automatically Granted, WC Docket No. 13-266, Public Notice* (rel. Dec. 13, 2013). In the future, CenturyLink intends to file an application to discontinue the Frame Relay and ATM services provided by its Qwest Corporation affiliate.

CenturyLink is a dominant provider of CenturyTel Frame Relay and CenturyTel ATM services. CenturyLink submits the following information in support of its application:

1. Name and address of carrier

CenturyLink
100 CenturyLink Drive
Monroe, Louisiana 71203

2. Date of planned service discontinuance

As of December 31, 2014, or as soon thereafter as the necessary regulatory approvals can be obtained, CenturyLink will no longer offer these services to new customers or accept new orders from existing customers (except to the extent such orders are permitted by contract).

Existing customers of these services will be grandfathered as follows:

- Existing contracts for these services will not be renewed.
- Customers with a contract that expires *prior to December 31, 2014* may retain their CenturyTel Frame Relay and/or CenturyTel ATM service covered by that contract on a month-to-month basis until December 31, 2014.
- Customers with a contract that expires *after December 31, 2014* may retain their CenturyTel Frame Relay and/or CenturyTel ATM service covered by that contract until the expiration of that contract.

3. Points of geographic areas of service affected

CenturyLink seeks authority to discontinue the provision of CenturyTel Frame Relay and CenturyTel ATM services in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

4. Brief description of the type of services affected

CenturyTel Frame Relay Service is a connection-oriented packet-switched data service allowing for the interconnection of Local Area Networks (LAN) or other compatible customer equipment. CenturyTel ATM Service is a connection-oriented multiplexing and switching service based on ATM cell-based switching technology. This service uses fixed-length cells to support transmission of multiple types of traffic (such as data, voice and video) over a LAN or Wide Area Network (WAN).

In 2011, CenturyLink was advised by equipment manufacturer Alcatel-Lucent that the equipment used for CenturyTel Frame Relay and CenturyTel ATM services would no longer be manufactured as of December 31, 2011 and that all support would be discontinued as of December 31, 2014.

As a result of their merger, CenturyTel, Inc and Embarq, Inc. merged and consolidated their billing systems into one system, housing information for all of the predecessor companies' Frame Relay and ATM customers. CenturyLink currently has approximately 1000 customers purchasing CenturyTel and Embarq Frame Relay and ATM services, but the consolidated billing system for these services does not track customers by their pre-merger affiliate name. This Application therefore identifies the total number of Frame Relay and ATM customers served by these two CenturyLink affiliates. However, because the affiliates are subject to different regulation – for CenturyTel, dominant regulation, and, for Embarq, non-dominant regulation – CenturyLink has filed separate applications to discontinue those affiliates' Frame Relay and ATM services.

Current customers have the option of moving to alternative CenturyLink services, such as IQ Networking Private Port Service, which uses the latest technology to create a robust VPN

service, IQ Public Service, Metro Ethernet or Private Line services. Customers can also turn to numerous other providers of similar services.

5. Brief description of the dates and methods of notice to all affected customers

On February 5, 2014, CenturyLink notified its customers by U.S. Mail of its plans for discontinuing its CenturyTel Frame Relay and CenturyTel ATM services. (See Attachment A.)

On August 18, 2014, CenturyLink sent these customers official notice of this planned discontinuance by U.S. Mail. (See Attachment B.)

6. Dominance of carrier with respect to the service to be discontinued

CenturyLink is a dominant carrier with regard to the services to be discontinued.

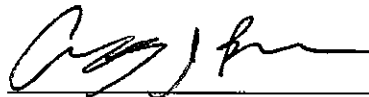
7. Service

In accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 63.71(a), CenturyLink has mailed a copy of this application to the Governor and public utility commission of each affected state identified in Paragraph 3 above, as well as to the Special Assistant for Telecommunications under the Secretary of Defense.

Respectfully submitted,

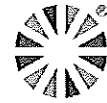
CENTURYLINK

By:



Craig J. Brown
CenturyLink, Inc.
1099 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 250
Washington, DC 20001
Phone 303-992-2503
Craig.J.Brown@CenturyLink.com
Its attorney

DATE: August 26, 2014



Date

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE ZIP

Dear <Customer Name>,

At CenturyLink, our goal is to provide you with great quality and value while still remaining competitive. Changing market conditions require that we continually evaluate our prices, product offerings and infrastructure.

Occasionally our evaluation directs us to make changes to some products; therefore, we are writing to inform you of CenturyLink's plan to grandfather, and ultimately discontinue, its interstate and intrastate Frame Relay and Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) services offered by its CenturyTel, Embarq, and Qwest Corporation affiliates as the equipment used to deliver these services has been discontinued by the manufacturer. We want to give you advance notice so you have the opportunity to plan with us for the upcoming changes.

Later this year, after required regulatory notification and filings, these Frame Relay and ATM services will no longer be available to new customers or for new orders from existing customers (except to the extent permitted by contract). Existing customers of these services will be grandfathered as follows:

- Existing contracts for these services will not be renewed.
- Customers with a contract that expires *prior to December 31, 2014* may retain their Frame Relay and/or ATM service covered by that contract on a month-to-month basis until December 31, 2014.
- Customers with a contract that expires *after December 31, 2014, including option periods*, may retain their Frame Relay and/or ATM service covered by that contract until the expiration of the base contract and all option periods.

We encourage you to contact your account team to discuss alternatives to Frame Relay and ATM Service, such as CenturyLink's IQ Networking Private Port Service, which uses the latest technology to create a robust VPN service.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact your CenturyLink Service Manager or Sales Representative. Thank you for choosing CenturyLink for your communication needs—we value you as our customer.

Date

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE ZIP

Dear <Customer Name>,

In February of 2014, CenturyLink communicated to you our intent to discontinue interstate and intrastate Frame Relay and Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) services offered by its CenturyTel and Embarq affiliates as the equipment used to deliver these services has been discontinued by the manufacturer. At that time, we advised you that our plan was to submit the required regulatory notification and filings later in 2014. We are now moving forward with those regulatory filings and are sending you this notice as required.

As of December 31, 2014, or as soon after that date as authorized by the Federal Communications Commission and relevant state regulatory commissions, the Frame Relay and ATM services offered by CenturyLink's CenturyTel and Embarq affiliates will no longer be available to new customers or for new orders from existing customers (except to the extent permitted by contract). Existing customers of these services will be grandfathered as follows:

- Existing contracts for these services will not be renewed.
- Customers with a contract that expires *prior to December 31, 2014* may retain their Frame Relay and/or ATM service covered by that contract on a month-to-month basis until December 31, 2014.
- Customers with a contract that expires *after December 31, 2014* may retain their Frame Relay and/or ATM service covered by that contract until the expiration of that contract.

At CenturyLink, our goal is to provide you with great quality and value while still remaining competitive. Changing market conditions require that we continually evaluate our prices, product offerings and infrastructure.

If you have not done so already, we encourage you to contact your account team to discuss alternatives to Frame Relay and ATM Service, such as CenturyLink IQ® Networking Private Port Service, which uses the latest technology to create a robust VPN service.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact your CenturyLink Service Manager or Sales Representative. Thank you for choosing CenturyLink for your communication needs—we value you as our customer.

For Legacy CenturyTel customers:

The following statement is required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC):

The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service (or reduction or impairment) unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. Address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the Sec. 63.71 Application of CenturyLink. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance (or reduction or impairment) upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

For Legacy Embarq customers:

The following statement is required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC):

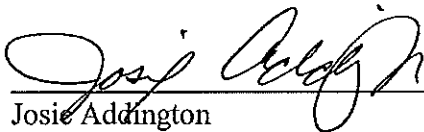
The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service (or reduction or impairment) unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 15 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. Address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the Sec. 63.71 Application of CenturyLink. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance (or reduction or impairment) upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Josie Addington, do hereby certify that I have caused the foregoing **SECTION 63.71**

APPLICATION to be:

- 1) Filed with the Secretary of the FCC via courier (original and five copies plus one for stamp and return);
- 2) Served, via U.S. Mail on the Governors of the states, territories and commonwealths listed on the attached service list;
- 3) Served, via U.S. Mail, on the Public Utility Commissions listed on the attached service list; and
- 4) Served via U.S. Mail on the Special Assistant for Telecommunications under the Secretary of Defense.



Josie Addington

Date: August 26, 2014

SERVICE LIST

The Honorable Robert J. Bentley
Office of the Governor
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130

Alabama Public Service Commission
Suite 850
100 North Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

The Honorable Janice K. Brewer
Office of the Governor
Executive Tower
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Mike Beebe
Office of the Governor
Room 250
State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

Arkansas Public Service Commission
100 Center Building
Little Rock, AR 72201-4314

The Honorable John W. Hickenlooper
Office of the Governor
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203-1792

Colorado Public Utilities Commission
Suite 250
1560 Broadway
Denver, CO 80202

The Honorable Nathan Deal
Office of the Governor
203 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable C.L. "Butch" Otter
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
POB 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
POB 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

SERVICE LIST

The Honorable Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Illinois Commerce Commission
Suite C-800
160 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60601

The Honorable Michael R. Pence
Office of the Governor
200 W. Washington Street
Room 206
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Indiana Utility Regulatory
Commission
PNC Center
Suite 1500 E
101 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The Honorable Terry Branstad
Office of the Governor
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Iowa Utilities Board
Room 69
1375 East Court Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319-0069

The Honorable Bobby Jindal
Office of the Governor
POB 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Louisiana Public Service Commission
POB 91154
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9154

The Honorable Rick Snyder
Officer of the Governor
POB 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Michigan Public Service Commission
POB 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Mark Dayton
Office of the Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota Public Utilities
Commission
121 7th Place East
Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

SERVICE LIST

The Honorable Phil Bryant
Office of the Governor
POB 139
Jackson, MS 39205

Mississippi Public Service
Commission
501 North West Street
Woolfolk State Office Building
Jackson, MS 39201-1174

The Honorable Jay Nixon
Office of the Governor
POB 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Missouri Public Service Commission
POB 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

The Honorable Steve Bullock
Office of the Governor
POB 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Montana Public Service Commission
POB 202601
Helena, MT 59620-2601

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Building
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
1150 E. William Street
Carson City, NV 89701-3109

The Honorable Susana Martinez
Office of the Governor
Room 400
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501

New Mexico Public Regulation
Commission
1120 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501-1269

The Honorable John R. Kasich
Office of the Governor
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

SERVICE LIST

The Honorable John Kitzhaber
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street, NE
Suite 160
Salem, OR 97301

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
550 Capitol Street, NE
Suite 215
Salem, OR 97308-1088

The Honorable Bill Haslam
Office of the Governor
1st Floor
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243

Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

The Honorable Rick Perry
Office of the Governor
POB 12428
Austin, TX 78711-2428

Public Utility Commission of Texas
POB 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326

The Honorable Gary Herbert
Office of the Governor
Utah State Capitol Complex, Suite 200
350 North State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2220

Public Service Commission of Utah
4th Floor
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
POB 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

WA UTC
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

The Honorable Scott Walker
Office of the Governor
115 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Public Service Commission of
Wisconsin
610 North Whitney Way
Madison, WI 53705-2729

SERVICE LIST

The Honorable Matt Mead
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
200 West 24th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0010

Wyoming Public Service Commission
Hansen Building
2515 Warren Avenue
Suite 300
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Secretary of Defense
**Attn.: Special Assistant for
Telecommunications**
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000