

# **Exhibit K**

## **PERFORMANCE ASSURANCE PLAN**

### **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 As set forth in this Agreement, Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC ("CenturyLink QC") and CLEC voluntarily agree to the terms of the following Performance Assurance Plan ("PAP"), initially prepared in conjunction with Qwest's application for approval under Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act") to offer in-region long distance service and subsequently modified in accordance with the Commission's orders and, where applicable, by operation of law.

### **2.0 Plan Structure**

2.1 The PAP is a two-tiered, self-executing remedy plan. CLEC shall be provided with Tier 1 payments if, as applicable, CenturyLink QC does not provide parity between the service it provides to CLEC and that which it provides to its own retail customers, or CenturyLink QC fails to meet applicable benchmarks.

2.1.1 As specified in section 7.0, if CenturyLink QC fails to meet parity and benchmark standards on an aggregate CLEC basis, CenturyLink QC shall make Tier 2 payments to a Fund established by the state regulatory commission or, if required by existing law, to the state general fund.

2.2 As specified in sections 6.0 and 7.0 and Attachments 1 and 2, payment is generally on a per occurrence basis, (i.e., a set dollar payment times the number of non-conforming service events). For the performance measurements which do not lend themselves to per occurrence payment, payment is on a per measurement basis, (i.e., a set dollar payment). The level of payment also depends upon the number of consecutive months of non-conforming performance, (i.e., an escalating payment the longer the duration of non-conforming performance) unless otherwise specified.

2.3 CenturyLink QC shall be in conformance with the parity standard when service CenturyLink QC provides to CLEC is equivalent to that which it provides to its retail customers. The PAP relies upon statistical scoring to determine whether any difference between CLEC and CenturyLink QC performance results is significant, that is, not attributable to simple random variation. Statistical parity shall exist when performance results for CLEC and for CenturyLink QC retail analogue result in a z-value that is no greater than the critical z-values listed in the Critical Z-Statistical Table in section 5.0.

2.4 For performance measurements that have no CenturyLink QC retail analogue, agreed upon benchmarks shall be used. Benchmarks shall be evaluated using a “stare and compare” method. For example, if the benchmark for a particular performance measurement is 95% or better, CenturyLink QC performance results must be at least 95% to meet the benchmark. Percentage benchmarks will be adjusted to round the allowable number of misses up or down to the closest integer, except when a benchmark standard and low CLEC volume are such that a 100% performance result would be required to meet the standard and has not been attained in which case section 3.1.2 applies.

### **3.0 Performance Measurements**

3.1 The performance measurements that are in the PAP and either (1) subject to the PAP payment mechanisms or (2) not subject to the PAP payment mechanisms but subject to the Reinstatement/Removal Process set forth in section 3.2 below are identified in Attachment 1 and sections 6.3 and 7.4. Each performance measurement identified is defined in the Performance Indicator Definitions ("PIDs") included in the SGAT at Exhibit B.

3.1.1 On Attachment 1, the measurements have been designated as Tier 1, Tier 2, or both Tier 1 and Tier 2 and given a High, Medium, or Low designation.

3.1.2 Where applicable elsewhere in the PAP, this provision modifies other provisions and operates as follows: For any Tier 1 or Tier 2 benchmark or non-interval parity performance sub-measure, CenturyLink QC shall apply one allowable miss to a sub-measure disaggregation that otherwise would require 100% performance before the performance is considered as non-conforming to standard (1) if at the CLEC-aggregate level, the performance standard is met or (2) where the CLEC-aggregate performance must be 100% to meet the standard, the CLEC-aggregate performance is conforming after applying one allowable miss at that level.

3.2 The following measures, which are listed in Attachment 1 or section 7.4, are not subject to the payment mechanisms of the PAP; however, they are subject to the PID Reinstatement/Removal Process. All other measures listed in Attachment 1, section 6.3 or section 7.4 are subject to the PAP payment mechanisms, but they are not subject to the PID Reinstatement/Removal Process.

- GA-3 Gateway Availability EB-TA
- GA-4 System Availability EXACT
- GA-7 Timely Outage Resolution following Software Releases
- PO-3 LSR Rejection Notice Interval
- PO-5D Firm Order Confirmations (FOCs) On Time (ASRs for LIS Trunks)

- PO-7 Billing Completion Notification Timeliness
- PO-8 Jeopardy Notice Interval
- PO-16 Timely Release Notifications
- OP-17 Timeliness of Disconnects Associated with LNP Orders
- MR-11 LNP Trouble Reports Cleared within Specified Timeframes
- BI-4 Billing Completeness
- NI-1 Trunk Blocking
- NP-1 NXX Code Activation

3.3 PID Reinstatement/Removal Process: If CenturyLink QC's performance for any sub-measure of the PIDs listed in section 3.2 above does not conform to the established PID standard as set forth in the PAP for three consecutive months, that sub-measure will be reinstated (i.e., be subject to the PAP payment mechanisms) subject to the retroactive payment provision of section 3.3.2 and subject to the PAP payment mechanisms effective in the month following the three consecutive months. The determination of whether a PID sub-measure is reinstated is made no later than at the end of the second month following the third consecutive month of non-conforming performance. The sub-measure will remain subject to the PAP payment mechanisms until CenturyLink QC's performance for that sub-measure satisfies the established standards for three consecutive months. Effective the month following such conforming performance, the sub-measure will no longer be subject to the PAP payment mechanisms but will continue to be subject to the PID Reinstatement/Removal Process. The determination of whether a PID sub-measure is removed from being subject to the PAP payment mechanisms is made no later than the end of the second month following the third consecutive month of conforming performance. Where applicable elsewhere in the PAP, this PID Reinstatement/Removal Process modifies other provisions and operates as follows:

3.3.1 Disaggregation and Reporting Levels: Performance will be evaluated at the lowest level of disaggregation defined in Exhibit B of the SGAT on a CLEC-aggregated or other-aggregated basis such that performance is evaluated for the purposes of administering the Reinstatement/Removal Process on a statewide or regionwide level, as applicable per the PID.

3.3.2 Retroactive Payments: To calculate retroactive payments for the sub-measures reinstated, PAP payment mechanisms will be applied to the three consecutive months in which the standard was missed, which triggered reinstatement. These retroactive payments will be made to applicable CLECs or the Tier 2 fund, depending upon the tier designation of the PID, at the end of the third month after the month in which performance triggered re-instatement.

3.3.2.1 Accounting for Payments: In support of retroactive payments (section 3.3.2 above), CenturyLink QC will account separately for PAP payments that would have been made to individual CLECs or to the

Tier 2 fund for a sub-measure as though it had been subject to the PAP payment mechanisms, where automatic reinstatement applies, and account separately in the same manner for the time between when it is determined that a sub-measure met the standard for automatic removal and the effective date of removal (the month following the three consecutive “met” months). With regard to sub-measures that are subsequently removed again through this process, any PAP payments made during the three consecutive months which triggers automatic removal will not be recovered by CenturyLink QC.

3.3.2.2 Interest: In the case of automatic reinstatement, retroactive payments will include interest calculated at the State of Utah post judgment interest rate as specified in Utah Code Ann. § 15-1-4 from the date a payment would have been made to the date the payment is actually made.

3.3.2.3 Tracking: CenturyLink QC will track and report service and payment results, including retroactive and avoided (i.e., during periods of removal) PAP payments and the disposition of the avoided payments on a CLEC, PID sub-measure and aggregate basis each month.

3.3.3 Public Website: CenturyLink QC will maintain a public website showing the PAP status of each PID or sub-measure with respect to the applicability of the PAP payment mechanisms (i.e., reinstated or removed), which eliminates the requirement to make filings with the Commission to modify the PAP due to the application of the PID Reinstatement/Removal Process.

#### **4.0 Statistical Measurement**

4.1 CenturyLink QC uses a statistical test, namely the modified “z-test,” for evaluating the difference between two means (i.e., CenturyLink QC and CLEC service or repair intervals) or two percentages (e.g., CenturyLink QC and CLEC proportions), to determine whether a parity condition exists between the results for CenturyLink QC and the CLEC(s). The modified z-tests shall be applicable if the number of data points are greater than 30 for a given measurement. For testing measurements for which the number of data points are 30 or less, CenturyLink QC will use a permutation test to determine the statistical significance of the difference between CenturyLink QC and CLEC.

4.2 CenturyLink QC shall be in conformance when the monthly performance results for parity measurements (whether in the form of means, percents, or proportions and at the equivalent level of disaggregation) are such that the calculated

z-test statistics are not greater than the critical z-values as listed in Table 1, section 5.0.

4.3 CenturyLink QC shall be in conformance with benchmark measurements when the monthly performance result equals or exceeds the benchmark, if a higher value means better performance, and when the monthly performance result equals or is less than the benchmark if a lower value means better performance.

The formula for determining parity using the modified z-test is:

$$Z = \text{DIFF} / \sigma_{\text{DIFF}}$$

Where:

$$\text{DIFF} = M_{\text{CenturyLink QC}} - M_{\text{CLEC}}$$

$M_{\text{CENTURYLINK QC}}$  = CenturyLink QC average or proportion

$M_{\text{CLEC}}$  = CLEC average or proportion

$\sigma_{\text{DIFF}}$  = square root [ $\sigma^2_{\text{CenturyLink QC}} (1/n_{\text{CLEC}} + 1/n_{\text{CenturyLink QC}})$ ]

$\sigma^2_{\text{CenturyLink QC}}$  = calculated variance for CenturyLink QC

$n_{\text{CenturyLink QC}}$  = number of observations or samples used in CenturyLink QC measurement

$n_{\text{CLEC}}$  = number of observations or samples used in CLEC measurement

The modified z-tests will be applied to reported parity measurements that contain more than 30 data points.

In calculating the difference between CenturyLink QC and CLEC performance, the above formula applies when a larger CenturyLink QC value indicates a better level of performance. In cases where a smaller CenturyLink QC value indicates a higher level of performance, the order is reversed, i.e.,  $M_{\text{CLEC}} - M_{\text{CENTURYLINK QC}}$ .

4.3.1 For parity measurements where the number of data points is 30 or less, CenturyLink QC will apply a permutation test to test for statistical significance. Permutation analysis will be applied to calculate the z-statistic using the following logic:

Calculate the modified z-statistic for the actual arrangement of the data Pool and mix the CLEC and CenturyLink QC data sets

Perform the following 1000 times:

Randomly subdivide the pooled data sets into two pools, one the same size as the original CLEC data set ( $n_{\text{CLEC}}$ ) and one reflecting the remaining data points, and one reflecting the remaining data points, (which is equal to the size of the original CenturyLink QC data set or  $n_{\text{CENTURYLINK QC}}$ ).

Compute and store the modified z-test score ( $Z_s$ ) for this sample.

Count the number of times the z-statistic for a permutation of the data is greater than the actual modified z- statistic.

Compute the fraction of permutations for which the statistic for the rearranged data is greater than the statistic for the actual samples.

If the fraction is greater than  $\alpha$ , the significance level of the test, the hypothesis of no difference is not rejected, and the test is passed. The  $\alpha$  shall be .05 when the critical z value is 1.645 and .15 when the critical z value is 1.04.

## 5.0 Critical Z-Value

5.1 The following table shall be used to determine the critical z-value that is referred to in section 6.0. It is based on the monthly business volume of the CLEC for the particular performance measurements for which statistic testing is being performed.

**TABLE 1: CRITICAL Z-VALUE**

CLEC volume (Sample size)	LIS Trunks, UDITs, Resale, UBL-DS1 and DS- 3	All Other
1-10	1.04*	1.645
11-150	1.645	1.645
151-300	2.0	2.0
301-600	2.7	2.7
601-3000	3.7	3.7
3001 and above	4.3	4.3

\* The 1.04 applies for individual month testing for performance measurements involving LIS trunks and DS-1 and DS-3 that are UDITs, Resale, or Unbundled Loops. The performance measurements are OP-3d/e, OP-4d/e, OP-5a, OP-6-4/5, MR-5a/b, MR-7d/e, and MR-8.

For purposes of determining consecutive month misses, 1.645 shall be used. Where performance measurements disaggregate to zone 1 and zone 2, the zones shall be combined for purposes of statistical testing.

## 6.0 Tier 1 Payments to CLEC

6.1 Tier 1 payments to CLEC shall be made solely for the performance measurements designated as Tier 1 on Attachment 1. The payment amount for non-conforming service varies depending upon the designation of performance measurements as High, Medium, and Low and the duration of the non-conforming service condition as described below. Non-conforming service is defined in section 4.0.

6.1.1 Determination of Non-Conforming Measurements: The number of performance measurements that are determined to be non-conforming and, therefore, eligible for Tier 1 payments subject to parity standards, are limited according to the critical z-value shown in Table 1, section 5.0. The critical z-values are the statistical standard that determines for each CLEC performance measurement whether CenturyLink QC has met parity. The critical z-value is selected from Table 1 according to the monthly CLEC volume for the performance measurement. For instance, if the CLEC sample size for that month is 100, the critical z-value is 1.645 for the statistical testing of that parity performance measurement.

6.2 Determination of the Amount of Payment: Tier 1 payments to CLEC, except as provided for in sections 6.2.3, 6.3 and 10.0, are calculated and paid monthly based on the number of performance measurements exceeding the critical z-value for parity measurements and the benchmark thresholds for benchmarks. Payments will be made on either a per occurrence or per measurement basis, depending upon the performance measurement, using the dollar amounts specified in Table 2 below. The dollar amounts vary depending upon whether the performance measurement is designated High, Medium, or Low and escalate depending upon the number of consecutive months for which CenturyLink QC has not met the standard for the particular measurement.

6.2.1 The escalation of payments for consecutive months of non-conforming service will be matched month for month with de-escalation of payments for every month of conforming service. For example, if CenturyLink QC has four consecutive monthly "misses" it will make payments that escalate from month 1 to month 4 as shown in Table 2. If, in the next month, service meets the standard, CenturyLink QC makes no payment. A payment "indicator" de-escalates down from month 4 to month 3. If CenturyLink QC misses the following month, it will make payment at the month 3 level of Table 2 because that is where the payment "indicator" presently sits. If CenturyLink QC misses again the following month, it will make payments that escalate back to the month 4 level. The payment level will de-escalate back to the original month 1 level only upon conforming service sufficient to move the payment "indicator" back to the month 1 level.

6.2.2 For those performance measurements listed on Attachment 2 as "Performance Measurements Subject to Per Measurement Caps," excluding BI-3A, payment to a CLEC in a single month shall not exceed the amount listed in Table 2 below for the "Per Measurement Cap" category. For those performance measurements listed on Attachment 2 as "Performance Measurements Subject to Per Measurement Payments," if any should be added at a later time, payment to a CLEC will be the amount set forth in Table 2 below under the section labeled "Per Measurement Cap."



**TABLE 2: TIER 1 PAYMENTS TO CLEC**

Per Occurrence							
Measurement Group	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Each following month after Month 6 through Month 12 add:
High	\$150	\$250	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$100
Medium	\$ 75	\$150	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$100
Low	\$ 25	\$ 50	\$100	\$200	\$300	\$400	\$100

Per Measurement Cap							
Measurement Group	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Each following month after Month 6 add
High	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$125,000	\$150,000	\$25,000
Medium	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 60,000	\$10,000
Low	\$ 5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 5,000

6.2.3 For the BI-3A performance measurement, the dollar payment amount for non-conforming performance varies depending upon the Total Bill Adjustment Amount for the CLEC. The payment amount is calculated using Table 2A below by multiplying the per occurrence amount times the number of occurrences based on the Total Bill Adjustment Amount,<sup>1</sup> capped at the amount shown in the table for that Total Bill Adjustment Amount. The escalation of payments for consecutive months as stated in section 6.2.1 does not apply.

**TABLE 2A: TIER 1 PAYMENTS TO CLECS FOR BI-3A**

Total Bill Adjustment Amount	Per Occurrence Amount	Cap
\$0 - \$0.99	\$0	\$0
\$1 - \$199.99	\$1	\$200
\$200 - \$999.99	\$10	\$5,000
\$1,000 - \$9,999.99	\$10	\$10,000
\$10,000 - \$49,999.99	\$15	\$15,000

<sup>1</sup> Total Bill Adjustment Amount is determined by subtracting the BI-3A numerator from the BI-3A denominator as defined in the BI-3 PID formula.

\$50,000 - \$99,999.99	\$20	\$20,000
\$100,000 and over	\$25	\$25,000

6.3 For collocation, CP-2 and CP-4 performance measurements shall be relied upon for delineation of collocation business rules. For purposes of calculating Tier 1 payments, collocation jobs and collocation feasibility studies that are later than the due date will have a per day payment applied according to Table 3. The per day payment will be applied to any collocation job in which the feasibility study is provided or the collocation installation is completed later than the scheduled date. The calculation of the payment amount will be performed by applying the per day payment amounts as specified in Table 3. Thus, for days 1 through 10, the payment is \$150 per day. For days 11 through 20, the payment is \$300 per day and so on. Nothing in this PAP overrides CLEC's rights with respect to collocation intervals under Utah rules.

**TABLE 3: TIER-1 COLLOCATION PAYMENTS TO CLECS**

Days Late	Completion Date	Feasibility Study
1 to 10 days	\$150/day	\$45/day
11 to 20 days	\$300/day	\$90/day
21 to 30 days	\$450/day	\$135/day
31 to 40 days	\$600/day	\$180/day
More than 40 days	\$1,000/day	\$300/day

6.4 A minimum payment calculation shall be performed by CenturyLink QC at the end of each year for each CLEC with annual order volumes of no more than 1,200. The payment shall be calculated by adding the applicable payment amount in Table 4 below for each month in which at least one payment was made to the CLEC. To the extent that the actual CLEC payment for the year is less than the product of the preceding calculation, CenturyLink QC shall make an additional payment equal to the difference.

**TABLE 4: MINIMUM PAYMENTS TO CLECS**

Total Monthly Payment:	Minimum Payment Amount:
Less than \$200	\$ 0
Between \$200 and \$800	\$ 1,500
Between \$801 and \$1,400	\$ 2,000
Over \$1,400	\$ 2,500

**7.0 Tier 2 Payments to the State**

7.1 Payments to the State shall be limited to the performance measurements designated in section 7.4 for Tier 2 per measurement payments and in Attachment 1 for per occurrence payments and which have at least 10 data points each month for the period payments are being calculated. Similar to the Tier 1 structure, Tier 2 measurements are categorized as High, Medium, and Low and the amount of payments for non-conformance varies according to this categorization.

7.2 Determination of Non-Conforming Measurements: The determination of non-conformance will be based upon the aggregate of all CLEC data for each Tier 2 performance measurement. Non-conforming service is defined in section 4.2 (for parity measurements) and 4.3 (for benchmark measurements). The number of performance measurements determined to be “non-conforming” and therefore, eligible for Tier-2 payments, are limited according to the critical z-values shown in Table 1, section 5.0. The critical z-value is the statistical standard that determines for each performance measurement whether CenturyLink QC has met parity.

7.3 Determination of the Amount of Payment: Except as provided in section 7.4, Tier 2 payments are calculated and paid monthly based on the number of performance measurements failing performance standards for a third consecutive month, or if two out of three consecutive months in the 12 month period have been missed, the second consecutive month for Tier 2 measurements with Tier 1 counterparts and one month for Tier 2 measurements that do not have Tier 1 counterparts. Payment will be made on either a per occurrence or per measurement basis, whichever is applicable to the performance measurement, using the dollar amounts specified in Table 5 or Table 6 below. Except as provided in section 7.4, the dollar amounts vary depending upon whether the performance measurement is designated High, Medium, or Low.

7.3.1 For those Tier 2 measurements listed on Attachment 2 as “Performance Measurements Subject to Per Measurement Caps,” payment to the State in a single month shall not exceed the amount listed in Table 5 for the “Per Measurement Cap” category.

**TABLE 5: TIER 2 PAYMENTS TO STATE FUNDS**

Per Occurrence

Measurement Group	
High	\$500
Medium	\$300
Low	\$200

Per Measurement Cap

Measurement Group	
High	\$75,000
Medium	\$30,000
Low	\$20,000

7.4 Performance Measurements Subject to Per Measurement Payment: The following Tier 2 performance measurements shall have their performance results measured on a region-wide (14 state) basis. The performance measurements are:

- GA-1: Gateway Availability - IMA-GUI
- GA-3: Gateway Availability – EB-TA
- GA-4: System Availability – EXACT
- GA-6: Gateway Availability – GUI-Repair
- GA-8: Gateway Availability – IMA XML
- PO-1: Pre-Order/Order Response Times
- OP-2: Call Answered within Twenty Seconds – Interconnect Provisioning Center
- MR-2: Calls Answered within Twenty Seconds – Interconnect Repair Center

GA-1 has two sub-measurements: GA-1A and GA-1D. PO-1 has two sub-measurements: PO-1A and PO-1X. PO-1A and PO-1X shall have their transaction types aggregated together.

GA-8 and PO-1 are subject to a stabilization period. For each of these new measures/sub-measures that include XML results there will be a 3-month measurement stabilization period. During this period, no payment applies if the payment is determined to have been caused by the development to include XML into the PID results and not due to an actual performance miss. In order to determine the cause of payments during the stabilization period, if any payments are identified, the payment’s due date will be extended for 30 days to provide CenturyLink QC the opportunity to perform root cause analysis and make the results readily available to the impacted parties. Until performance reporting includes XML results, the prior measures/sub-measures included in the PAP will apply. Further, should either the IMA-GUI or IMA-XML interfaces be replaced in the future, results from the replacement interfaces will be automatically incorporated into these measures and be included in the PAP (with a stabilization period) coincident with CLEC migration to the new interfaces subject to changes to the impacted measures including but not limited to modification due to operational differences with the replacement interfaces.

For these measurements, CenturyLink QC will make a Tier 2 payment based upon monthly performance results according to Table 6: Tier 2 Per Measurement Payments to State Funds.

**TABLE 6: TIER 2 PER MEASUREMENT PAYMENTS TO STATE FUNDS**

Measurement	Performance	State Payment	
GA-1,3,4,6, 8	1% or lower	\$1,000	
	>1% to 3%	\$10,000	
	>3% to 5%	\$20,000	
	>5%	\$30,000	
PO-1	2 sec. Or less	\$1,000	
	>2 sec. to 5 sec.	\$5,000	
	>5 sec. to 10 sec.	\$10,000	
	>10 sec.	\$15,000	
OP-2/MR-2	1% or lower	\$1,000	
	>1% to 3%	\$5,000	
	>3% to 5%	\$10,000	
	>5%	\$15,000	

7.5 Payment of Tier 2 Funds: Payments to a state fund shall be used for any purpose determined by the Commission that is allowed to it by state law. If the Commission is not permitted by state law to receive or administer Tier 2 payments, the payments shall be made to the state general fund or to such other source as may be provided for under state law.

**8.0 Step by Step Calculation of Monthly Tier 1 Payments to CLEC**

8.1 Application of the Critical Z-Values: CenturyLink QC shall identify the Tier 1 parity performance measurements that measure the service provided to CLEC by CenturyLink QC for the month in question and the critical z-value from Table 1 in section 5.0 that shall be used for purposes of statistical testing for each particular performance measurement. The statistical testing procedures described in section 4.0 shall be applied. For the purpose of determining the critical z-values, each disaggregated category of a performance measurement is treated as a separate sub-measurement. The critical z-value to be applied is determined by the CLEC volume at each level of disaggregation or sub-measurement.

8.2 Performance Measurements for which Tier 1 Payment is Per Occurrence:

## 8.2.1 Performance Measurements that are Averages or Means:

8.2.1.1 Step 1: For each performance measurement, the average or the mean that would yield the critical z-value shall be calculated. The same denominator as the one used in calculating the z-statistic for the measurement shall be used. (For benchmark measurements, the benchmark value shall be used.)

8.2.1.2 Step 2: The percentage differences between the actual averages and the calculated averages shall be calculated. The calculation is  $\% \text{ diff} = (\text{CLEC result} - \text{Calculated Value}) / \text{Calculated Value}$ . The percent difference shall be capped at a maximum of 100%. In all calculations of percent differences in sections 8.0 and 9.0, the calculated percent differences is capped at 100%.

8.2.1.3 Step 3: For each performance measurement, the total number of data points shall be multiplied by the percentage calculated in the previous step and the per occurrence dollar amounts from the Tier 1 Payment Table shall determine the payment to the CLEC for each non-conforming performance measurement.

## 8.2.2 Performance Measurements that are Percentages:

8.2.2.1 Step 1: For each performance measurement, the percentage that would yield the critical z-value shall be calculated. The same denominator as the one used in calculating the z- statistic for the measurement shall be used. (For benchmark measurements, the benchmark value shall be used.)

8.2.2.2 Step 2: The difference between the actual percentages for the CLEC and the calculated percentages shall be determined.

8.2.2.3 Step 3: For each performance measurement, the total number of data points shall be multiplied by the difference in percentage calculated in the previous step, and the per occurrence dollar amount taken from the Tier 1 Payment Table, to determine the payment to the CLEC for each non-conforming performance measurement.

## 8.2.3 Performance Measurements that are Ratios or Proportions:

8.2.3.1 Step 1: For each performance measurement the ratio that would yield the critical z-value shall be calculated. The same denominator as the one used in calculating the z-statistic for the measurement shall be used. (For benchmark measurements, the benchmark value shall be used.)

8.2.3.2 Step 2: The absolute difference between the actual rate for the CLEC and the calculated rate shall be determined.

8.2.3.3 Step 3: For each performance measurement, the total number of data points shall be multiplied by the difference calculated in the previous step, and the per occurrence dollar amount taken from the Tier 1 Payment Table, to determine the payment to the CLEC for each non-conforming performance measurement.

8.3 Performance Measurements for which Tier 1 Payment is Per Measure:

8.3.1 For each performance measurement where CenturyLink QC fails to meet the standard, the payment to the CLEC shall be the dollar amount shown on the “per measure” portion of Table 2: Tier 1 Payments to CLEC.

## **9.0 Step by Step Calculation of Monthly Tier 2 Payments to State Funds**

9.1 Criteria for Determination of Tier 2 Payments: To determine if Tier 2 payments for performance measurements listed on Attachment 1 shall be made in the current month, the following shall be determined:

9.1.1 For all Tier 2 measurements, it shall be determined whether CenturyLink QC missed the performance standard for three consecutive months.

9.1.2 If CenturyLink QC has not missed three consecutive months, the following evaluation will be made:

9.1.2.1 For Tier 2 measurements that have Tier 1 counterparts, it shall be determined if CenturyLink QC has missed the standard in any two out of three consecutive months for the most recent 12 month period, and if so, whether CenturyLink QC has additionally missed the performance standard for the second consecutive month in the current month.

9.1.2.2 For Tier 2 measurements that do not have Tier 1 counterparts, it shall be determined if CenturyLink QC has missed the standard in any two out of three consecutive months for the most recent 12 month period, and if so, whether CenturyLink QC has additionally missed the performance standard for the current month.

9.1.3 If any of the conditions in 9.1.1, 9.1.2.1 or 9.1.2.2 are met and there are at least 10 data points for the measurement in each month, a Tier 2 payment will be calculated and paid as described below. Each succeeding month will be evaluated on the same basis and Tier 2 payments will continue until CenturyLink QC’s performance meets the applicable standard.

9.1.4 Application of the Critical Z-Values: CenturyLink QC shall identify the Tier 2 parity performance measurements that measure the service provided to all CLECs by CenturyLink QC for the month in question and the critical z-value from Table 1 in section 5.0 that shall be used for purposes of statistical testing for each particular performance measurement. There must be at least 10 data points each month for each particular performance measurement.



The statistical testing procedures described in section 4.0 shall be applied. For the purpose of determining the critical z-values, each disaggregated category of a performance measurement is treated as a separate sub-measurement. The critical z-value to be applied is determined by the CLEC volume at each level of disaggregation or sub-measurement.

9.1.5 Section 9.2 describes the step by step Tier 2 payment calculations for measurements that are per occurrence. In these steps, determining the number of occurrences is based on calculations for the applicable “non-conforming month(s)” that triggered the payment. Based on the applicable determination in section 9.1, the calculated differences and average number of data points will be determined using (1) three consecutive non-conforming months’ data, (2) two consecutive non-conforming months’ data or (3) the current month’s data.

## 9.2 Performance Measurements for which Tier 2 Payment is Per Occurrence:

### 9.2.1 Performance Measurements that are Averages or Means:

9.2.1.1 Step 1: The monthly average or the mean for each performance measurement that would yield the critical z-value for each applicable non-conforming month shall be calculated. The same denominator as the one used in calculating the z-statistic for the measurement shall be used. (For benchmark measurements, the benchmark value shall be used.)

9.2.1.2 Step 2: The percentage difference between the actual averages and the calculated averages for each applicable non-conforming month shall be determined. The calculation for parity measurements is  $\% \text{ diff} = (\text{actual average} - \text{calculated average}) / \text{calculated average}$ . The percent difference shall be capped at a maximum of 100%. In all calculations of percent differences in section 8.0 and section 9.0, the calculated percent difference is capped at 100%.

9.2.1.3 Step 3: For each performance measurement, the total number of data points for each applicable non-conforming month shall be multiplied by the percentage calculated in the previous step. The average for the applicable non-conforming months (rounded to the nearest integer) shall be calculated and multiplied by the result of the per occurrence dollar amount taken from the Tier 2 Payment Table to determine the payment to the State for each non-conforming performance measurement.

### 9.2.2 Performance Measurements that are Percentages:

9.2.2.1 Step 1: For each performance measurement, the monthly percentage that would yield the critical z-value for each applicable non-conforming month shall be calculated. The same denominator as the one used in calculating the z-statistic for the measurement shall be used. (For benchmark measurements, the benchmark value shall be used.)

9.2.2.2 Step 2: The difference between the actual percentages and the calculated percentages for each of the applicable non-conforming months shall be calculated. The calculation for parity measurement is  $\text{diff} = (\text{CLEC result} - \text{calculated percentage})$ . This formula shall be applicable where a high value is indicative of poor performance. The formula shall be reversed where high performance is indicative of good performance.

9.2.2.3 Step 3: For each performance measurement, the total number of data points for each applicable non-conforming month shall be multiplied by the difference in percentage calculated in the previous step. The average for the applicable non-conforming months shall be calculated (rounded to the nearest integer) and multiplied by the result of the per occurrence dollar amounts taken from the Tier 2 Payment Table to determine the payment to the State.

### 9.2.3 Performance Measurements that are Ratios or Proportions:

9.2.3.1 Step 1: For each performance measurement, the ratio that would yield the critical z-value for each applicable non-conforming month shall be calculated. The same denominator as the one used in calculating the z-statistic for the measurement shall be used. (For benchmark measurements, the benchmark value shall be used.)

9.2.3.2 Step 2: The difference between the actual rate for the CLEC and the calculated rate for each applicable non-conforming month shall be calculated. The calculation is:  $\text{diff} = (\text{CLEC rate} - \text{calculated rate})$ . This formula shall apply where a high value is indicative of poor performance. The formula shall be reversed where high performance is indicative of good performance.

9.2.3.3 Step 3: For each performance measurement, the total number of data points shall be multiplied by the difference calculated in the previous step for each applicable non-conforming month. The average for the applicable non-conforming months shall be calculated (rounded to the nearest integer) and multiplied by the result of the per

occurrence dollar amounts taken from the Tier 2 Payment Table to determine the payment to the State.

### 9.3 Performance Measurements for which Tier 2 Payment is Per Measure:

9.3.1 For each performance measurement where CenturyLink QC fails to meet the standard, the payment to the State Fund shall be the dollar amount shown on the "Per Measurement" portion of the Tier 2 Payment Table in the State Payment column.

## 10.0 Low Volume, Developing Markets

10.1 For certain qualifying performance standards, if the aggregate monthly volumes of CLECs participating in the PAP are more than 10, but less than 100, CenturyLink QC will make Tier 1 payments to CLECs for failure to meet the parity or benchmark standard for the qualifying performance sub-measurements. The qualifying sub-measurements are the ADSL qualified loop product disaggregations of OP-3, OP-4, OP-5a, MR-3, MR-5, MR-7, and MR-8. If the aggregate monthly CLEC volume is greater than 100, the provisions of this section shall not apply to the qualifying performance sub-measurement.

10.2 The determination of whether CenturyLink QC has met the parity or benchmark standards will be made using aggregate volumes of CLECs participating in the PAP. In the event CenturyLink QC does not meet the applicable performance standards, a total payment to affected CLECs will be determined in accordance with the high, medium, low designation for each performance measurement (see Attachment 1) and as described in section 8.0, except that CLEC aggregate volumes will be used. In the event the calculated total payment amount to CLECs is less than \$5,000, a minimum payment of \$5,000 shall be made. The resulting total payment amount to CLECs will be apportioned to the affected CLECs based upon each CLEC's relative share of the number of total service misses.

10.3 At the six (6)-month reviews, CenturyLink QC will consider adding to the above list of qualifying performance sub-measurements, new products disaggregation representing new modes of CLEC entry into developing markets.

## 11.0 Payment

11.1 Payments to CLEC, the State, or the Special Fund shall be made one month following the due date of the performance measurement report for the month for which payment is being made. CenturyLink QC will pay interest on any late payment and underpayment at the State of Utah post judgment interest rate as specified in Utah Code Ann. § 15-1-4. On any overpayment, CenturyLink QC is allowed to offset future payments by the amount of the overpayment plus interest at the Utah post judgment interest rate.

11.2 Payment to CLEC shall be made via bill credits. Bill credits shall be identified on a summary format substantially similar to that distributed as a prototype to the CLECs and the Commissions. To the extent that a monthly payment owed to CLEC under this PAP exceeds the amount owed to CenturyLink QC by CLEC on a monthly bill, CenturyLink QC will issue a check or wire transfer to CLEC in the amount of the overage. Payment to the State shall be made via check or wire transfer.

11.3 Upon execution of a memorandum of understanding with the Utah Commission, a Utah Special Fund and a Utah Discretionary Fund shall be created for the purposes and in accordance with section 11.0. The Utah Commission shall appoint a person designated to administer and authorize disbursement of funds. All claims against the funds shall be presented to the Commission's designate and shall be the responsibility of the Utah Commission.

11.3.1 CenturyLink QC shall establish the Utah Special Fund and the Utah Discretionary Fund as separate interest bearing escrow accounts. Upon CenturyLink QC receiving effective section 271 authority from the FCC for the state of Utah, the Utah Commission shall direct CenturyLink QC to deposit into the Utah Special Fund 50% of all Tier 2 payments. CenturyLink QC shall deposit any other Tier 2 payments into the Utah Discretionary Fund. . The costs of the escrow accounts will be paid for from the accounts' funds.

11.3.2 The Utah Special Fund shall be created to pay the independent auditor and audit costs for the purpose of a regional audit as specified in section 15.0-15.4 or audit costs associated with a state audit pursuant to section 15.5, and to pay expenses incurred by the Commission in participating in any regional review of the PIDs. Disbursements from the Utah Special Fund shall be from Tier 2 funds. Other than the transfer of funds allowed in section 11.3.2.1 and the payment of Tier 1 payments in excess of the cap from Tier 2 funds provided in section 12.2.1, disbursements from the Utah Discretionary Fund shall be limited to Utah telecommunications initiatives. Any excess funds in the Utah Special Fund may be transferred to the Utah Discretionary Fund at the Commission's discretion.

11.3.2.1 If the Utah Commission chooses not to participate in the regional audit pursuant to sections 15.0-15.4 and the account balance of the Utah Special Fund excrow account is less than \$50,000 at the time of any annual audit described in section 15.5, a transfer of funds from the Utah Discretionary Fund to the Utah Special Fund shall be allowed in the amount necessary to bring the Utah Special Fund balance to \$50,000.

11.3.3 Notwithstanding the provisions herein, CenturyLink QC shall advance sufficient funds to any consolidated Special Fund established by participating states, set up for the purpose of a regional audit as specified in sections 15.0-15.4, not to exceed \$200,000, to meet initial claims against the Special Fund to the extent Tier 2

contributions are insufficient. CenturyLink QC shall be allowed to recover any such advances plus interest at the rate that the escrow account would have earned.

## 12.0 Cap on Tier 1 and Tier 2 Payments

12.1 There shall be an annual cap (“cap”) on the total payments made by CenturyLink QC for any consecutive 12 month period beginning with the effective date of the PAP for the State of Utah (“plan year”). The amount of this cap for the State of Utah during any plan year shall be 36% of the Utah ARMIS Net Return. The cap shall be recalculated each plan year based upon the prior calendar year’s Utah ARMIS Net Return. CenturyLink QC shall submit to the Commission the calculation of each plan year’s cap no later than 30 days after submission of ARMIS results to the FCC. CLEC agrees that this amount constitutes a maximum annual cap that shall apply to the aggregate total of any Tier-1 liquidated damages (including any such damages paid pursuant to this Agreement or payments made by CenturyLink QC pursuant to any Utah interconnection agreement with a performance remedy plan) and Tier-2 Assessments or payments made by CenturyLink QC pursuant to any Utah interconnection agreement with a performance remedy plan.

12.2 If the cap is reached during any plan year:

12.2.1 Any Tier 1 payments that cannot be made because the cap has been reached shall be made from the Tier 2 funds. Such Tier 1 payments shall be paid before any payments for telecommunications initiatives or transfers to the Utah Special Fund from the Utah Discretionary Fund. If Tier 2 funds are exhausted without making all Tier 1 payments that would otherwise be due, unpaid Tier 1 payments shall be paid from future Tier 2 payments CenturyLink QC is obligated to make under this PAP. Such payments will bear interest at the Utah post judgment interest rate as specified in Utah Code Ann. § 15-1-4. Future payments, including applicable interest, will only be made if sufficient Tier 2 funds become available. In the event Tier 2 funds are available to pay a portion, but not all, of these future payments, payment shall be made to each CLEC in proportion to its percentage of total payments due all CLECs.

12.2.2 The Commission may commence a proceeding to determine if the cap should be increased pursuant to sections 12.2.2.1 and 12.2.2.2. The proceeding shall be conducted on an expedited basis subject to the right of interested parties to have a reasonable opportunity to prepare their cases and present them to the Commission. Following hearing, the Commission may increase the cap to a level that it finds, based on substantial evidence, is necessary to provide sufficient incentive for CenturyLink QC to meet its obligations under this PAP, subject to the following provision:

12.2.2.1 In no event may the cap be increased to an amount greater than 48% of CenturyLink QC’s ARMIS Net Return for the calendar year prior to the calendar year in which the plan year in which the cap is being increased commenced.

## 13.0 Limitations

13.1 The PAP shall not become available in the State unless and until Qwest receives effective section 271 authority from the FCC for the State of Utah.

13.2 CenturyLink QC will not be liable for Tier 1 payments to CLEC in Utah until the Commission has approved an interconnection agreement between CenturyLink QC and CLEC which adopts the provisions of this PAP.

13.3 CenturyLink QC shall not be obligated to make Tier 1 or Tier 2 payments for any measurement if and to the extent that non-conformance for that measurement was the result of any of the following: (1) with respect to performance measurements with a benchmark standard, a Force Majeure event as defined in section 5.7 of the SGAT. CenturyLink QC will provide notice of the occurrence of a Force Majeure event within 72 hours of the time CenturyLink QC learns of the event or within a reasonable time frame that CenturyLink QC should have learned of it; (2) an act or omission by a CLEC that is contrary to any of its obligations under its interconnection agreement with CenturyLink QC or under federal or state law; an act or omission by CLEC that is in bad faith. Examples of bad faith conduct include, but are not limited to: unreasonably holding service orders and/or applications, “dumping” orders or applications in unreasonably large batches, “dumping” orders or applications at or near the close of a business day, on a Friday evening or prior to a holiday, and failing to provide timely forecasts to CenturyLink QC for services or facilities when such forecasts are explicitly required by the SGAT; (3) problems associated with third-party systems or equipment, which could not have been avoided by CenturyLink QC in the exercise of reasonable diligence, *provided, however*, that this third party exclusion will not be raised in the State more than three times within a calendar year. If a Force Majeure event or other excusing event recognized in this section merely suspends CenturyLink QC’s ability to timely perform an activity subject to a performance measurement that is an interval measure, the applicable time frame in which CenturyLink QC’s compliance with the parity or benchmark criterion is measured will be extended on an hour-for-hour or day-for-day basis, as applicable, equal to the duration of the excusing event.

13.3.1 CenturyLink QC will not be excused from Tier 1 or Tier 2 payments for any reason except as described in Section 13.0. CenturyLink QC will have the burden of demonstrating that its non-conformance with the performance measurement was excused on one of the grounds described in this PAP. A party may petition the Commission to require CenturyLink QC to deposit disputed payments into an escrow account when the requesting party can show cause, such as grounds provided in the Uniform Commercial Code for cases of commercial uncertainty.

13.3.2 Notwithstanding any other provision of this PAP, it shall not excuse performance that CenturyLink QC could reasonably have been expected to deliver assuming that it had designed, implemented, staffed, provisioned, and otherwise



provided for resources reasonably required to meet foreseeable volumes and patterns of demands upon its resources by CLECs.

13.3.3 If CLEC can demonstrate that CenturyLink QC failed to meet a specific performance requirement under this PAP and that CenturyLink QC's failure caused CLEC to be physically incapable of meeting a Utah retail service quality rule standard and if the Commission, in accordance with applicable law, imposes a fine on CLEC for failure to meet the standard, then the Commission may determine whether CenturyLink QC should pay the fine after notice to CenturyLink QC and an opportunity for CenturyLink QC to be heard and subject to any other requirements of due process.

13.4 CenturyLink QC's agreement to implement these enforcement terms, and specifically its agreement to pay any "liquidated damages" or "assessments" hereunder, will not be considered as an admission against interest or an admission of liability in any legal, regulatory, or other proceeding relating in whole or in part to the same performance.

13.4.1 CLEC may not use: 1) the existence of this enforcement plan; or 2) CenturyLink QC's payment of Tier -1 "liquidated damages" or Tier 2 "assessments" as evidence that CenturyLink QC has discriminated in the provision of any facilities or services under Sections 251 or 252, or has violated any state or federal law or regulation. CenturyLink QC's conduct underlying its performance measures, however are not made inadmissible by its terms.

13.4.2 By accepting this performance remedy plan, CLEC agrees that CenturyLink QC's performance with respect to this remedy plan may not be used as an admission of liability or culpability for a violation of any state or federal law or regulation. (Nothing herein is intended to preclude CenturyLink QC from introducing evidence of any Tier 1 "liquidated damages" under these provisions for the purpose of offsetting the payment against any other damages or payments a CLEC might recover.) The terms of this paragraph do not apply to any proceeding before the Commission or the FCC to determine whether CenturyLink QC has met or continues to meet the requirements of section 271 of the Act.

13.5 By incorporating these liquidated damages terms into the PAP, CenturyLink QC and CLEC accepting this PAP agree that proof of damages from any non-conforming performance measurement would be difficult to ascertain and, therefore, liquidated damages are a reasonable approximation of any contractual damages that may result from a non-conforming performance measurement. CenturyLink QC and CLEC further agree that Tier 1 payments made pursuant to this PAP are not intended to be a penalty. The application of the assessments and damages provided for herein is not intended to foreclose other noncontractual legal and non-contractual regulatory claims and remedies that may be available to a CLEC.

13.6 This PAP contains a comprehensive set of performance measurements, statistical methodologies, and payment mechanisms that are designed to function together, and only together, as an integrated whole. To elect the PAP, CLEC must adopt the PAP in its entirety in its interconnection agreement with CenturyLink QC in lieu of other alternative standards or relief for the same wholesale services governed by the PAP. Where alternative standards or remedies for CenturyLink QC wholesale services governed by the PAP are available under rules, orders, or contracts, including interconnection agreements, CLEC will be limited to either PAP standards and remedies or the standards and remedies available under rules, orders, or contracts and CLEC's choice of remedies shall be specified in its interconnection agreement.

13.7 Any liquidated damages payment by CenturyLink QC under these provisions is not hereby made inadmissible in any proceeding related to the same conduct where CenturyLink QC seeks to offset the payments against any other damages a CLEC may recover; whether or not the nature of the damages sought by the CLEC is such that an offset is appropriate will be determined in the relevant proceeding.

13.8 To the extent CenturyLink QC believes that any Tier 2 payment required to be made under the PAP would duplicate assessments, sanctions, or other payments for the same underlying activity or omission pursuant to any Commission order or service quality rule, CenturyLink QC may seek a ruling of the Commission that it should not be required to make the payment and may withhold the payment pending a ruling by the Commission.

13.9 Whenever a CenturyLink QC Tier 1 payment to an individual CLEC exceeds \$3 million in a month, CenturyLink QC may commence a proceeding to demonstrate why it should not be required to pay any amount in excess of the \$3 million. Upon timely commencement of the proceeding, CenturyLink QC must pay the balance of payments owed in excess of \$3 million into escrow, to be held by a third-party pending the outcome of the proceeding. To invoke these escrow provisions, CenturyLink QC must file, not later than the due date of the Tier 1 payments, its application. CenturyLink QC will have the burden of proof to demonstrate why, under the circumstances, it would be unjust to require it to make the payments in excess of \$3 million. If CenturyLink QC reports non-conforming performance to CLEC for three consecutive months on 20% or more of the measurements reported to CLEC and has incurred no more than \$1 million in liability to CLEC, then CLEC may commence a similar proceeding. In any such proceeding CLEC will have the burden of proof to demonstrate why, under the circumstances, justice requires CenturyLink QC to make payments in excess of the amount calculated pursuant to the terms of the PAP. The disputes identified in this section shall be resolved in a manner specified in the Dispute Resolution section of the SGAT with the CLEC.

## **14.0 Reporting**

14.1 Upon receiving effective section 271 authority from the FCC for a state, CenturyLink QC will provide CLEC that has an approved interconnection agreement with CenturyLink QC, a monthly report of CenturyLink QC's performance for the measurements identified in the PAP by the last day of the month following the month for which performance results are being reported. However, CenturyLink QC shall have a grace period of five business days, so that CenturyLink QC shall not be deemed out of compliance with its reporting obligations before the expiration of the five business day grace period. CenturyLink QC will collect, analyze, and report performance data for the measurements listed on Attachment 1 in accordance with the most recent version of the PIDs. Upon CLEC's request, data files of the CLEC's raw data, or any subset thereof, will be transmitted, without charge, to CLEC in a mutually acceptable format, protocol, and transmission medium.

14.2 CenturyLink QC will also provide the Commission a monthly report of aggregate CLEC performance results pursuant to the PAP by the last day of the month following the month for which performance results are being reported. However, CenturyLink QC shall have a grace period of five business days, so that CenturyLink QC shall not be deemed out of compliance with its reporting obligations before the expiration of the five business day grace period. Individual CLEC reports of participating CLECs will also be available to the Commission upon request. By accepting this PAP, CLEC consents to CenturyLink QC providing CLEC's report and raw data to the State Commission. Pursuant to the terms of an order of the Commission, CenturyLink QC may provide CLEC-specific data that relates to the PAP, provided that CenturyLink QC shall first initiate any procedures necessary to protect the confidentiality and to prevent the public release of the information pending any applicable Commission procedures and further provided that CenturyLink QC provides such notice as the Commission directs to the CLEC involved, in order to allow it to prosecute such procedures to their completion. Data files of participating CLEC raw data, or any subset thereof, will be transmitted, without charge, to the Commission in a mutually acceptable format, protocol, and transmission form.

14.3 In the event CenturyLink QC does not provide CLEC and the Commission with a monthly report by the last day of the month following the month for which performance results are being reported, CenturyLink QC will pay to the State a total of \$500 for each business day for which performance reports are 6 to 10 business days past the due date; \$1,000 for each business day for which performance reports are 11 to 15 business days past the due date; and \$2,000 for each business day for which performance results are more than 15 business days past the due date. If reports are on time but are missing performance results, CenturyLink QC will pay to the State a total of one-fifth of the late report amount for each missing performance measurement, subject to a cap of the full late report amount. These amounts represent the total payments for omitting performance measurements or missing any report deadlines, rather than a payment per report. Prior to the date of a payment for late reports, CenturyLink QC may file a request for a waiver of the payment, which

states the reasons for the waiver. The Commission may grant the waiver, deny the waiver, or provide any other relief that may be appropriate.

14.4 To the extent that CenturyLink QC recalculates payments made under this PAP, such recalculation shall be limited to the preceding three years (measured from the later of the provision of a monthly credit statement or payment due date). CenturyLink QC shall retain sufficient records to demonstrate fully the basis for its calculations for long enough to meet this potential recalculation obligation. CLEC verification or recalculation efforts should be made reasonably contemporaneously with CenturyLink QC measurements. In any event, CenturyLink QC shall maintain the records in a readily useable format for one year. For the remaining two years, the records may be retained in archived format. Any payment adjustments shall be subject to the interest rate provisions of section 11.1.

## **15.0 Integrated Audit Program/Investigations of Performance Results**

15.1 Audits of the PAP shall be conducted in a two-year cycle under the auspices of the participating Commissions in accordance with a detailed audit plan developed by an independent auditor retained for a two-year period. The participating Commissions shall select the independent auditor with input from CenturyLink QC and CLECs.

15.1.1 The participating Commissions shall form an oversight committee of Commissioners who will choose the independent auditor and approve the audit plan. Any disputes as to the choice of auditor or the scope of the audit shall be resolved through a vote of the chairs of the participating commissions pursuant to Section 15.1.4.

15.1.2 The audit plan shall be conducted over two years. The audit plan will identify the specific performance measurements to be audited, the specific tests to be conducted, and the entity to conduct them. The audit plan will give priority to auditing the higher risk areas identified in the OSS report. The two-year cycle will examine risks likely to exist across that period and the past history of testing, in order to determine what combination of high and more moderate areas of risk should be examined during the two-year cycle. The first year of a two-year cycle will concentrate on areas most likely to require follow-up in the second year.

15.1.3 The audit plan shall be coordinated with other audit plans that may be conducted by other state commissions so as to avoid duplication, shall not impede CenturyLink QC's ability to comply with the other provisions of the PAP and should be of a nature and scope that it can be conducted consistent with the reasonable course of CenturyLink QC's business operations.

15.1.4 Any dispute arising out of the audit plan, the conduct of the audit, or audit results shall be resolved by the oversight committee of Commissioners. Decisions of the oversight committee of Commissioners may be appealed to a committee of the chairs of the participating Commissions.

15.2 CenturyLink QC may make management processes more accurate or more efficient to perform without sacrificing accuracy. These changes are at CenturyLink QC's discretion but will be reported to the independent auditor in quarterly meetings in which the auditor may ask questions about changes made in the CenturyLink QC measurement regimen. The meetings, which will be limited to CenturyLink QC and the independent auditor, will permit an independent assessment of the materiality and propriety of any CenturyLink QC changes, including, where necessary, testing of the change details by the independent auditor. The information gathered by the independent auditor may be the basis for reports by the independent auditor to the participating Commissions and, where the Commissions deem it appropriate, to other participants.

15.3 In the event of a disagreement between CenturyLink QC and CLEC as to any issue regarding the accuracy or integrity of data collected, generated, and reported pursuant to the PAP, CenturyLink QC and the CLEC shall first consult with one another and attempt in good faith to resolve the issue. If an issue is not resolved within 45 days after a request for consultation, CLEC and CenturyLink QC may, upon a demonstration of good cause, (e.g., evidence of material errors or discrepancies) request an independent audit to be conducted, at the initiating party's expense. The independent auditor will assess the need for an audit based upon whether there exists a material deficiency in the data or whether there exists an issue not otherwise addressed by the audit plan for the current cycle. The dispute resolution provision of section 18.0 is available to any party questioning the independent auditor's decision to conduct or not conduct a CLEC requested audit and the audit findings, should such an audit be conducted. An audit may not proceed until dispute resolution is completed. Audit findings will include: (a) general applicability of findings and conclusions (i.e., relevance to CLECs or jurisdictions other than the ones causing audit initiation), (b) magnitude of any payment adjustments required and, (c) whether cost responsibility should be shifted based upon the materiality and clarity of any CenturyLink QC non-conformance with measurement requirements (no pre-determined variance is appropriate, but should be based on the auditor's professional judgment). CLEC may not request an audit of data more than three years from the later of the provision of a monthly credit statement or payment due date.

15.4 Expenses for the regional audit of the PAP and any other related expenses, except that which may be assigned under section 15.3, shall be paid first from the Tier 2 funds in the Special Fund. The remainder of the audit expenses will be paid one half from Tier 1 funds in the Special Fund and one half by CenturyLink QC.

15.5 If the Utah Commission chooses not to participate in the regional audit described in sections 15.0-15.4, it may conduct an audit with the monies contained in the Utah Special Fund pursuant to the following:

- A. The audit shall be limited to (1) problem areas requiring further oversight as specifically identified in a previous audit; (2) any submeasurements changed or being changed from a manual to an electronic system; (3) any submeasurement responsible for at least 20% of the payments paid by CenturyLink QC over the prior year, and (4) whether CenturyLink QC is exercising due diligence in evaluating which, if any, performance data can be properly excluded from its performance measurements.
- B. The first audit pursuant to this section 15.5 shall be conducted no sooner than twelve months after Qwest receives effective 271 authority from the FCC for the state of Utah and may be conducted every twelve months thereafter. Any audits conducted pursuant to this section 15.5 shall be conducted by the same auditor retained to conduct the regional audit unless the Commission, for good cause (i.e., conflict, price, integrity, or viability of the firm), finds the regional auditor is unacceptable.
- C. No investigation or audit of any performance measurement shall be conducted within 12 months of any audit of the same performance measurement or submeasurement, including any audit conducted under the regional audit program or by another state or by a CLEC so long as the results of the other audits are made available to the Commission and the Division of Public Utilities and such audit is applicable to Utah specific data. If any audit has been conducted but does not include Utah specific data, the Commission may audit the performance measurement to the degree necessary to verify Utah specific results without duplicating relevant parts of the prior audit, unless the Commission finds the data produced by a performance measurement to be unreliable.
- D. Any audit conducted pursuant to this section must be designed and conducted to specifically address the perceived problem or condition that triggers the audit.
- E. No audit or investigation requested pursuant to this section 15.5 shall be duplicative of any audit. Any audit requested pursuant to this section shall be coordinated with other audits including audits planned or conducted by the regional audit program or pursuant to any other PAP, shall be planned and conducted so as to avoid duplication and interference with CenturyLink QC's ability to comply with the other

provisions of the PAP, and shall be of a nature and scope that it can be conducted within the reasonable course of CenturyLink QC's business. CenturyLink QC shall not be required to audit more than three performance measurements at the same time and CenturyLink QC's resources shall be allocated first to any ongoing regional audits.

15.6 Nothing in this section 15.0 limits any authority the Commission may have under independent state law to conduct audits.

## **16.0 Reviews**

16.1 Every six (6) months, beginning six months after the effective date of 271 approval by the FCC for the state of Utah, CenturyLink QC or CLEC may request the Commission to initiate a proceeding to review and evaluate the PAP. The Commission retains any independent authority under law to initiate a proceeding to review the PAP at any time and to order changes to any provision of the PAP, after notice and hearing and consistent with due process and other rights of all parties. CenturyLink QC and CLEC agree that no new performance measurement shall be added to this PAP that has not been subject to observation as a diagnostic measurement for a period of 6 months unless ordered otherwise by the Commission under its independent authority, after notice and hearing. Any changes made at the six-month review pursuant to this section shall apply to and modify this agreement between CenturyLink QC and CLEC.

16.1.1. Notwithstanding section 16.1, if any agreements on adding, modifying, or deleting performance measurements as permitted by section 16.1 are reached between CenturyLink QC and CLECs participating in an industry Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) PID administration forum, those agreements shall be incorporated into the PAP and modify the agreement between CLEC and CenturyLink QC at any time those agreements are submitted to the Commission, whether before or after a six-month review.

16.1.2 Notwithstanding section 16.1, any party may submit a root cause analysis to the Commission requesting removal of a PID or sub-measure from the PAP or requesting exemption of a PID or sub-measure from the application of the trigger mechanism for reinstatement or subsequent removal. In the analysis and recommendations concerning the root cause analysis, the Commission is to consider, at a minimum, whether the root cause analysis provides evidence of no harm, the same harm as covered by other PID measures, non-CenturyLink QC related causes, or other factors which directly relate to the harm or circumstances specific to the PID or sub-measure being analyzed.

16.2 Two years after the effective date of the first FCC 271 approval of the PAP, the participating Commissions (if the Utah Commission wishes to join in a

collaborative effort) may conduct a joint review by a independent third party to examine the continuing effectiveness of the PAP as a means of inducing compliant performance. This review shall not be used to open the PAP generally to amendment, but would serve to assist Commissions in determining existing conditions and reporting to the FCC on the continuing adequacy of the PAP to serve its intended functions. The expense of the reviews shall be paid from the Special Fund.

16.3 CenturyLink QC will make the PAP available for CLEC interconnection agreements until such time as CenturyLink QC eliminates its Section 272 affiliate. At that time, the Commission and CenturyLink QC shall review the appropriateness of the PAP and whether its continuation is necessary. However, in the event CenturyLink QC's authority to serve the interLATA market ends, the PAP shall be rescinded immediately.



## **17.0 Voluntary Performance Assurance Plan**

This PAP represents CenturyLink QC's voluntary offer to provide performance assurance. Nothing in the PAP or in any conclusion of non-conformance of CenturyLink QC's service performance with the standards defined in the PAP shall be construed to be, of itself, non-conformance with the Act.

## **18.0 Dispute Resolution**

For the purpose of resolving disputes over the meaning of the provisions of the PAP and how they should be applied, the dispute resolution provisions of the SGAT, section 5.18, shall apply whether the CLEC uses the SGAT in its entirety or elects to make the PAP part of its interconnection agreements (i.e., the unique dispute resolution provisions of interconnection agreements should not apply).

**Attachment 1: Tier 1 and Tier 2 Performance Measurements Subject to Per Occurrence Payment**

Performance Measurement		Tier 1 Payments			Tier 2 Payments		
		Low	Med	High	Low	Med	High
<b>GATEWAY</b>							
Timely Outage Resolution	GA-7						X
<b>PRE-ORDER/ORDERS</b>							
LSR Rejection Notice Interval	PO-3 <sup>a, h</sup>	X					
Firm Order Confirmations On Time	PO-5 <sup>h</sup>	X				X	
Work Completion Notification Timeliness	PO-6 <sup>b, h</sup>	X					
Billing Completion Notification Timeliness	PO-7 <sup>b, h</sup>	X					
Jeopardy Notice Interval	PO-8	X					
Timely Jeopardy Notices	PO-9	X					
Release Notifications	PO-16						X
(Expanded) – Manual Service Order Accuracy	PO-20 <sup>h</sup>		X				
<b>ORDERING AND PROVISIONING</b>							
Installation Commitments Met	OP-3 <sup>g</sup>			X		X	
Installation Intervals	OP-4 <sup>c, g</sup>			X		X	
New Service Quality	OP-5 <sup>a, b, d, g</sup>			X		X	
Delayed Days	OP-6 <sup>e, g</sup>			X		X	
Number Portability Timeliness	OP-8			X		X	
Coordinated Cuts On Time – Unbundled Loops	OP-13a			X		X	
LNP Disconnect Timeliness	OP-17			X		X	
<b>MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR</b>							
Out of Service Cleared within 24 hours	MR-3 <sup>g</sup>			X			
All Troubles Cleared within 4 hours	MR-5 <sup>g</sup>			X			
Mean time to Restore	MR-6 <sup>a, b, c, d, e, f, g</sup>			X			
Repair Repeat Report Rate	MR-7 <sup>g</sup>			X		X	
Trouble Rate	MR-8 <sup>g</sup>			X		X	
LNP Trouble Reports Cleared within Specified Timeframes	MR-11			X		X	
<b>BILLING</b>							
Time to Provide Recorded Usage Records	BI-1	X					X
Billing Accuracy-Adjustments for Errors	BI-3	X					
Billing Completeness	BI-4	X				X	
<b>NETWORK PERFORMANCE</b>							
Trunk Blocking	NI-1			X			X
NXX Code Activation	NP-1			X			X

- a. PO-3 is limited to PO-3x and PO-3c.
- b. PO-6 is included with PO-7 as a “family:” Measurements within the family share a single payment opportunity with only the measurements with the highest payment being paid.
- c. OP-4 is included with OP-6 as five “families:” OP-4a/OP-6-1, OP-4b/OP-6-2, OP-4c/OP-6-3, OP-4d/OP-6-4, and OP-4e/OP-6-5. Measurements within each family share a single payment opportunity with only the measurement with the highest payment being paid.
- d. Section 3.1.2 applies to OP-5b only if the number of orders with trouble in OP-5a is no more than one.
- e. For purposes of the PAP, OP-6a and OP-6b will be combined and treated as one. The combined OP-6 breaks down to OP-6-1 (within MSA), OP-6-2 (outside MSA), OP-6-3 (no dispatch), OP-6-4 (zone 1), and OP-6-5 (zone 2).
- f. Applicable only to xDSL-I capable loops.
- g. Excludes the following product disaggregations as applicable to this PID: Resale Centrex, Resale Centrex 21, Resale DS0 (non-designed), Resale DS0 (designed), Resale DS0, E911/911 Trunks, Resale Frame Relay, Resale Basic ISDN (non-designed), Resale Basic ISDN (designed), Resale Basic ISDN, Resale Primary ISDN (non-designed), Resale Primary ISDN (designed), Resale Primary ISDN, Resale PBX (non-designed), Resale PBX (designed), Resale PBX, Sub-Loop Unbundling, UNE-P (POTS), UNE-P (Centrex), and UNE-P (Centrex 21).
- h. Stabilization Period: For each of these new measures/sub-measures that include XML results there will be a 3-month measurement stabilization period. During this period, no payment applies if the payment is determined to have been caused by the development to include XML into the PID results and not due to an actual performance miss. In order to determine the cause of payments during the stabilization period, if any payments are identified, the payment’s due date will be extended for 30 days to provide Qwest the opportunity to perform root cause analysis and make the results readily available to the impacted parties. Until performance reporting includes XML results, the prior measures/sub-measures included in the PAP will apply. Further, should either the IMA-GUI or IMA-XML interfaces be replaced in the future, results from the replacement interfaces will be automatically incorporated into these measures and be included in the PAP (with a stabilization period) coincident with CLEC migration to the new interfaces subject to changes to the impacted measures including but not limited to modification due to operational differences with the replacement interfaces.

**Attachment 2: Performance Measurements Subject to Per Measurement Caps**

Billing

Time to Provide Recorded Usage Records – BI-1 (Tier 1/Tier 2)  
Billing Accuracy – Adjustments for Errors – BI-3 (Tier 1)  
Billing Completeness – BI-4 (Tier 1/Tier 2)