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- BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH -

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Qwest Corporation d/b/a)
CenturyLink QC Petition for)
Statewide Exemption from)
Carrier of Last Resort)
Obligation)
) DOCKET NO. 23-049-01
)
)

Public Witness Hearing
Taken on Thursday, February 8, 2024
At 5:30 p.m. MT

At Heber M. Wells Building
160 East 300 South
Room 403
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Reported by: Brooke Simms, RPR, CCR, CSR

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A P P E A R A N C E S

The Public Service Commission:
Presiding Officer John Delaney
Commissioner David R. Clark
Commissioner Dr. John Harvey

For The Division of Public Utilities:

Patrick Grecu
UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

For The Office of Consumer Services:

Robert Moore
UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

For Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink:

Katie Wagner
LUMEN

For Utah Rural Telecom Association:

Kira Slawson
BLACKBURN & STOLL, LC

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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PRESIDING OFFICER: My name is John Delaney. I'm the Commission's designated presiding officer for this hearing. With me are Commissioners David Clark and Commissioner John Harvey.

This evening, tonight, is February 8th, 2024, and it's approximately 5:30 p.m. This is the date and time that was noticed for the members of the public to come comment on the petition of Qwest Corporation DBA CenturyLink QC for statewide exemption from carrier of last resort obligations, Docket Number 23-049-01.

Why don't we take appearances quickly. For the applicant?

MS. WAGNER: Katie Wagner for CenturyLink.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

For the Division?

MR. GRECU: Patrick Grecu, Assistant Attorney General for the Division.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

Mr. Moore?

MR. MOORE: Robert Moore for the Office of Consumer Services.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

1 MS. SLAWSON: Kira Slawson for the Utah Rural
2 Telecom Association, intervenors.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you very
4 much. Well, at this point it doesn't appear that we
5 have anyone present. Does anyone know otherwise?
6 Ms. Anderson promised somebody might show up at 5:30.

7 MR. MOORE: She did, but she's out there
8 looking for them.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay. Well, I'll tell you
10 what we'll do. So our notice indicated that we would
11 give anyone present by 5:30 a reasonable opportunity
12 to -- to comment. I think I'd like to provide a little
13 bit more time beyond 5:30. Usually we -- we do give
14 folks a little bit more time. So I think what makes
15 sense right now -- is to go into recess and come back at
16 5:50, unless we start getting a rush of folks. And our
17 staff will let us know if people show up. Okay?
18 Someone will let us know.

19 Okay. So why don't we go into recess, and
20 we'll come back by 5:50, by that clock.

21 (Recess taken from 5:33 to 5:40.)

22 PRESIDING OFFICER: Looks like everybody is
23 here. Okay. We have a guest, Ms. VanDame; is that
24 correct?

25 MS. VanDAME: VanDame.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER: VanDame. Okay. Good
2 evening. We -- just to give you some context, we had an
3 evidentiary hearing earlier today, and we heard from
4 witnesses under oath and accepted evidence, and so now
5 this is your opportunity to give some public comment on
6 your understanding of the docket. You have an
7 opportunity to give a comment under oath or not under
8 oath, if you --

9 MS. VanDAME: Not oath.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay. Please come sit
11 down at this seat here. And if you could pull the
12 microphone closer to you, it would be helpful so
13 everyone can hear you and the court reporter --

14 MS. VanDAME: Okay.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER: -- will be able to
16 transcribe what you say.

17 MS. VanDAME: I'll try to remember to speak
18 loud enough.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay. Why don't you state
20 your name.

21 KATHY VANDAME

22 a member of the public commented as follows:

23 MS. VanDAME: My name is Kathy VanDame. I'm
24 speaking as a citizen, and I wanted to speak about this
25 docket for actually two reasons.

1 I noticed that one of the reasons that it came
2 to the Commission was because these -- CenturyLink
3 doesn't want to be the carrier of last resort, and part
4 of their reasoning was that -- was that they weren't
5 getting any of the money that we were paying in our
6 bills. I do have a line item that is for carrier of
7 last resort, but I read in the initial filings that they
8 weren't -- or the initial filing that they weren't
9 getting any of that money for some reason, and that
10 seems unfair.

11 But the real -- but that's not -- that's your
12 business and not mine. Mine is I didn't want landlines
13 to go away. I have the feeling that as cell phones and
14 all that get more popular, that there's beginning to be
15 a winding down of the landlines that we've had for such
16 a long time, and I just wanted to say that I think it's
17 a really important backup infrastructure.

18 They -- I just recently had a cousin in
19 Florida -- their cell phone was out of business for
20 three days, but they never lost their dial tone to their
21 landline. The landlines continue to work when the power
22 is down. The cell phone towers go down if the power is
23 down for a long time.

24 One of the other reasons that I think that
25 they're an important piece of infrastructure that we

1 need to preserve is that the privacy protections on
2 landlines are different than on cell phones. The data
3 that is generated by using our cell phones are widely
4 marketed. The police have access to that local --
5 location information. Women that are -- people that are
6 being harassed and trailed by ex-spouses and stuff can
7 have their information, but landlines you have to have a
8 subpoena to get that information.

9 And on my landline, I have an answering
10 machine that's right in my home. That -- those messages
11 are never stored in the cloud. They go directly over
12 the landline onto one of those old tapes, and it always
13 works the same. It -- never does anybody give me an
14 upgrade to that. I could go and buy a new one, but this
15 one has actual buttons that do the same thing every
16 time.

17 Unlike my cell phone, where somebody's, you
18 know, given me this wonderful present, you know, and
19 we've all of us had the experience that every time they
20 give you a new thing, there are some things that work
21 better, but there's things that you used to use that
22 don't work so well anymore.

23 So I just wanted to come and advocate strongly
24 that these -- this is existing, unique -- that we would
25 be very unwise to let it go away.

1 And, also, I'd like to complain about
2 CenturyLink. I don't know what happened, but after I
3 wrote the letter, I lost my dial tone. It took me about
4 six weeks to get it back, and, finally, the person that
5 fixed it that called me up and said she didn't know what
6 happened. She had called the office, and it was turned
7 off in the office. And that is paranoid thinking that I
8 had six weeks I couldn't get a dial tone after I wrote
9 my letter, but that's what happened.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you very much
11 for participating. You may step down.

12 MS. VanDAME: Thank you.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

14 MS. VanDAME: You haven't got any questions;
15 right?

16 PRESIDING OFFICER: No. Thank you.

17 Are we expecting -- so I got the list. So
18 we're assuming this is --

19 MS. ANDERSON: This is it.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER: This is it. Okay. So I'm
21 relying heavily on this piece of paper to assume that
22 there really is nobody, at least that we're expecting.

23 MS. ANDERSON: Ms. Ashdown and Ms. VanDame
24 were the only ones that I was aware of that were
25 interested in this party.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.

MS. ANDERSON: Ms. Ashdown is out of town.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.

MS. ANDERSON: So she's unable to attend.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay. Well, based on that and based on that it is now about -- let's just be honest here -- 5:47 and this was noticed at 5:30, we will -- we will adjourn the public witness component of this docket. Thank you again for being here. Have a good night.

(This hearing was concluded at
5:47 p.m. MT.)

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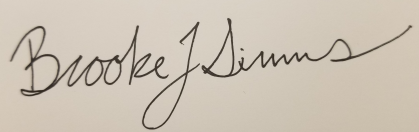
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF UTAH)
)
COUNTY OF UTAH)

I, BROOKE SIMMS, an Idaho Certified Shorthand Reporter, Utah State Certified Court Reporter, and Registered Professional Reporter, hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place set forth in the caption hereof; that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter my notes were transcribed through computer-aided transcription; and the foregoing transcript constitutes a full, true, and accurate record of such oral proceedings had, and of the whole thereof.

I have subscribed my name on this 23rd day of February, 2024.



Brooke Simms, RPR, CCR, CSR
Idaho CSR No. 1174
Utah CCR No. 12335391-780

[& - consumer]

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Utah Rules of Civil Procedure
Part V. Depositions and Discovery

Rule 30

(E) Submission to Witness; Changes; Signing.

Within 28 days after being notified by the officer that the transcript or recording is available, a witness may sign a statement of changes to the form or substance of the transcript or recording and the reasons for the changes. The officer shall append any changes timely made by the witness.

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