

ISSUED: November 30, 2010

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1484

In the Matter of

CENTURYLINK, INC.,

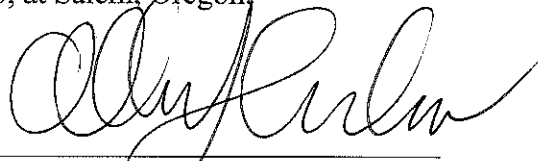
Application for Approval of Merger between
CenturyTel, Inc., and Qwest Communications
International, Inc.

**NOTICE OF
EX PARTE
COMMUNICATION**

On November 23, 2010, Commission Chairman Ray Baum received an electronic mail message from Jeff Crews of Eastern Oregon Net, Inc. The message contains information that relates to the merits of the issues pending in this proceeding. Commissioner Baum did not reply to the message. A copy of the message is attached.

Mr. Crews is not a party to this docket, and because a final decision has not yet been made in this proceeding, the message constitutes an *ex parte* communication under OAR 860-001-0340. Accordingly, I am providing notice of it to all parties to this docket. Moreover, a copy of this notice will be made part of the official record in this proceeding. Parties have the right to rebut the communication within 10 days of this notice, with service to all parties of record.

Dated this 30th day of November, 2010, at Salem, Oregon.



Allan J. Arlow
Administrative Law Judge

TAYLOR Annette

From: TAYLOR Annette
Sent: Tuesday, November 30, 2010 12:13 PM
To: TAYLOR Annette
Subject: FW: CenturyTel to cut 75% of Qwest wholesale staff?

From: BAUM Ray
Sent: Monday, November 29, 2010 5:10 PM
To: ARLOW Allan
Cc: GRANT Michael; CONWAY Bryan
Subject: FW: CenturyTel to cut 75% of Qwest wholesale staff?
Importance: High

From: Jeff Crews [<mailto:jeff@eoni.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2010 12:32 PM
To: BAUM Ray
Cc: 'Kelly Mutch'
Subject: CenturyTel to cut 75% of Qwest wholesale staff?
Importance: High

Commissioner Baum:

CenturyTel has never been a company that maintained a wholesale channel and so has no experience working with CLECs. With the merger of CenturyTel and Embarq a wholesale/CLEC channel appeared in the CenturyLink company.

Qwest has a wholesale group and has worked with CLECs for a long time.

My business partner Kelly Mutch let me know that CenturyTel plans to cut 75% of the wholesale staff at Qwest after the merger of CenturyTel and

If this is really happens then it seems that competition from CLECs in areas currently served by Qwest is going to be substantially reduced if Centurytel takes over and cuts CLEC support staff.

Do you agree that CLEC competition would be impacted if the staff assigned to wholesale/CLEC operations are cut by 75%?

Do you feel CLECs are important in telecommunications?

Our company certainly does as we believe the ILECs would not be doing much without the CLECs spurring competition along by offering competitive services.

Just wanted to make sure this was something you were aware of and how you feel about this potential impact to CLECs in Oregon presently served by Qwest.

Thanks for listening.

Jeff Crews
Eastern Oregon Net, Inc.
808 Adams Av, La Grande OR 97850
main office: 541-962-7873 ext 11 or 800-785-7873 ext 11
direct 541-963-2625, fax 541-624-5611
email jeff@eoni.com | web: <http://home.eoni.com>