

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1484

In the Matter of

CENTURLINK, INC.,

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

RULING

**DISPOSITION: MOTION GRANTED IN PART; NEW PROCEDURAL
SCHEDULE SET**

In this ruling, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) partially grants the Joint Motion for Extension of Briefing Schedule and revises the schedule in these proceedings accordingly.

I. BACKGROUND

The post-hearing schedule adopted by the ALJ in these proceedings set the dates for filing opening briefs as January 10, 2011 and reply briefs as January 18¹, 2011.

On January 5, 2011, Charter Fiberlink OR-CCVII, LLC; Level 3 Communications, LLC; Covad Communications Company; tw telecom of oregon, llc; XO Communications Services, Inc.; Priority One Telecom, Inc.; Sprint Communications Company, L.P.; Sprint Spectrum, L.P.; Nextel West Corp.; T-Mobile West Corporation; and TRACER (Joint Movants) filed a Joint Motion for Extension of Briefing Schedule citing the impact of a delay in receiving portions of the hearing transcript. In the Motion, Joint Movants noted the opposition of the Applicants, CenturyLink, Inc., and Qwest Communications International, Inc., to their Motion.

A conference was held via telephone on the morning of January 7, 2011 to address the schedule dispute. In addition to Applicants and Joint Movants, counsel separately noted their appearances on behalf of the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB)

¹ The parties had originally agreed upon January 17, 2011. However, the ALJ ordered January 18, 2011, due to state offices' observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

and the Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Staff). Counsel for Coastal Interveners (Lincoln County, City of Lincoln City, Tillamook County, and Parker Telecommunications) did not appear at the conference but indicated via electronic mail that Coastal Interveners did not oppose the Motion. CUB and Staff supported the Motion.

II. DISCUSSION

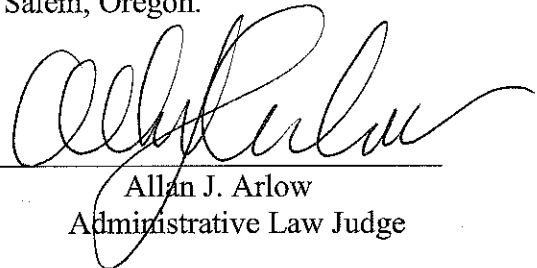
The parties were unable to reach a consensus regarding revisions to the schedule. The delay in receiving portions of the transcripts varied between two and six business days. The Parties stated that they are actively engaged in proceedings in other jurisdictions covering essentially the same issues as in this docket, and briefing them in similar time frames. A slight delay to reflect the impact of the delay in receipt of the transcripts is warranted, although somewhat less than the full week requested by the Joint Movants.

III. RULING

In light of the foregoing, I hereby modify the schedule as follows:

All Parties Simultaneous Opening Briefs Due	January 14, 2011
All Parties Simultaneous Rebuttal Briefs Due	January 21, 2011

Dated this 7th day of January, 2011, at Salem, Oregon.



Allan J. Arlow
Administrative Law Judge