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**REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

***VIA ETFS***

April 16, 2015

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW, TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

Attention: Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Enclosed for filing are the following revised excel spreadsheets restating the total ICC CAF Eligible Recovery for the years 2012 and 2013 for the CenturyLink Operating Companies (“CenturyLink”) identified in Attachment A to this letter:

- 2012 Eligible Recovery Form
- 2013 Eligible Recovery Form
- 2012 ICC Access Reduction Model (Confidential)
- 2013 ICC Access Reduction Model (Confidential)
- 2012 Rate Ceiling Form (Confidential)
- 2013 Rate Ceiling Form (Confidential)
- 2012 Tariff Rate Comparison Form (Confidential)
- 2013 Tariff Rate Comparison Form (Confidential)

The revisions CenturyLink submits with this letter are to correct the omission of certain minutes of use attributed to Halo Wireless, Inc. from CenturyLink’s FY 2011 Demand. CenturyLink has revised

the FCC forms identified above to demonstrate the incremental ICC CAF that results from this omission. There is no change in CenturyLink's tariff rates resulting from these revisions. The impact of these revisions on CenturyLink's total ICC CAF Support Recovery for 2012 and 2013 is \$641,837 as set forth below.

	As Filed 06/2012	Updated 04/2015	Difference
	(A)	(B)	(C) = (B)-(A)
Eligible Recovery Plan Year 1 06/2012	\$ 100,747,343	\$ 100,977,265	\$ 229,922
Maximum ARC	\$ 80,179,575	\$ 80,179,575	\$ -
Maximum CAF ICC Support	\$ 20,567,768	\$ 20,797,690	\$ 229,922
	As Filed 09/2013	Updated 04/2015	
Eligible Recovery Plan Year 2 09/2013	\$ 152,632,759	\$ 153,044,674	\$ 411,915
Maximum ARC	\$ 147,890,128	\$ 147,890,128	\$ -
Maximum CAF ICC Support	\$ 4,742,631	\$ 5,154,545	\$ 411,915
Additional Total ICC CAF Recoverable			<u>\$ 641,837</u>

Certain data being submitted in connection with this filing requires confidential treatment consistent with the Commission's rules. For the non-redacted version of these documents, pursuant to the Standard Protective Order and Declaration for use in § 402(b) Streamlined LEC Tariff Proceedings (Protective Order) adopted by the Commission in the Tariff Streamlining Order and published in Appendix B thereof,<sup>1</sup> each page has been marked "**CONTAINS PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – DO NOT RELEASE.**" CenturyLink requests that the non-redacted versions of these documents be withheld from public inspection.

CenturyLink also notes that, notwithstanding the Protective Order, there are separate legal bases for not making the confidential information available for public inspection – specifically, Commission Rule 0.457 and Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") and Commission Rule 0.459.<sup>2</sup> The confidential information included in this filing is competitively sensitive information and thus should not be available for public inspection. Such information would not ordinarily be made available to the public. Release of the confidential information in the submission would have a substantial negative competitive impact on CenturyLink. Accordingly, the non-redacted information in question should be withheld from disclosure under sections 0.457(d) and 0.459 of the Commission's rules. CenturyLink provides further justification for the confidential treatment of this information, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §

<sup>1</sup> See also, Public Notice, "Announcing Procedures for Filing and Obtaining Confidential Information for Annual Access Charge Tariff Filing and Corrections to TRP Intrastate Eligible Recovery Worksheet for Rate-of-Return Carriers and Long Form TRP for Price Cap Carriers", DA 12-887, and appended Protective Order (Attachment A), *In the Matter of Material to be Filed in Support of 2012 Annual Access Tariff Filings*, WCB/Pricing File No. 12-08 (rel. June 5, 2012).

<sup>2</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459; 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4).

0.459(b) and otherwise, in the Appendix to this letter. If the Commission denies this request for confidential treatment, CenturyLink requests that these documents be returned.

Consistent with 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(a), CenturyLink identifies the materials to which the request above applies in the attached Appendix and is including in the publicly available version of this filing uploaded via Electronic Tariff Filing System (ETFS) a redacted version of each document identified. The redacted version of each document is marked “**REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION,**” with the confidential information omitted. The non-redacted version of each document is being uploaded separately via the not-for-public access function of ETFS.

In accordance with the requirements of the Commission’s Rules, the FCC Registration Number (FRN) for CenturyLink is 0018-6268-53. CenturyLink is filing this letter on behalf of the carriers identified on Attachment A.

All correspondence and inquiries in connection with this filing should be addressed to me at 600 New Century Pkwy, New Century, KS 66031, (913) 353 7080.



Gary L. Kepley  
Director – Regulatory Operations  
CenturyLink

Attachments

Transmittal Letter  
Appendix  
Attachment A

## APPENDIX

### Confidentiality Justification

CenturyLink requests confidential treatment of certain data being submitted in connection with the revisions to its 2012 and 2013 total ICC CAF Eligible Recovery because certain of this information is competitively sensitive and its disclosure would have a negative competitive impact on CenturyLink. Such information would not ordinarily be made available to the public, and should be afforded confidential treatment under the Standard Protective Order and Declaration for use in § 402(b) Streamlined LEC Tariff Proceedings (Protective Order) adopted by the Commission in the Tariff Streamlining Order and published in Appendix B thereof.<sup>3</sup>

#### 47 C.F.R. § 0.457 and 5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(4)

Specific information submitted by CenturyLink in this filing is confidential and proprietary to CenturyLink as “commercial or financial information” under section 0.457(d). Disclosure of such information to the public would risk revealing company-sensitive proprietary information in connection with CenturyLink’s ongoing business plans and operations. Therefore, in the normal course of Commission practice, this information should be considered “Records not routinely available for public inspection.”

#### 47 C.F.R. § 0.459

Specific information in the CenturyLink Filing is also subject to protection under 47 C.F.R. § 0.459, as demonstrated below.

#### Information for which confidential treatment is sought

CenturyLink requests that specific information in its 2012 ICC Access Reduction Model, 2013 ICC Access Reduction Model, 2012 Rate Ceiling Form, 2013 Rate Ceiling Form, 2012 Tariff Rate Comparison Form and 2013 Tariff Rate Comparison Form (with confidentiality markings) be treated on a confidential basis under Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act. This information is competitively sensitive data that CenturyLink maintains as confidential and does not normally make available to the public. Release of the information would have a substantial negative competitive impact on CenturyLink. The confidential information contained in the non-redacted version of the CenturyLink Filing is marked “**CONTAINS PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – DO NOT RELEASE.**”

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<sup>3</sup> See also, Public Notice, "Announcing Procedures for Filing and Obtaining Confidential Information for Annual Access Charge Tariff Filing and Corrections to TRP Intrastate Eligible Recovery Worksheet for Rate-of-Return Carriers and Long Form TRP for Price Cap Carriers", DA 12-887, and appended Protective Order (Attachment A), *In the Matter of Material to be Filed in Support of 2012 Annual Access Tariff Filings*, WCB/Pricing File No. 12-08 (rel. June 5, 2012).

Commission proceeding in which the information was submitted

The information revised in this filing was originally submitted in the CenturyLink 2012 and 2013 Annual Access Tariff Filing.

Degree to which the information in question is commercial or financial, or contains a trade secret or is privileged

The competitive information designated as confidential in this filing is the following. This information is all competitively sensitive information that would not normally be released to the public, as such release would have a substantial negative competitive impact on CenturyLink. By way of example, the volume/demand data by component of access service, the detailed access line counts by geographic area, and detailed demand data and associated revenue by exchange provide valuable information at a granular level regarding CenturyLink customers and their services and CenturyLink operations in those areas.

Degree to which the information concerns a service that is subject to competition; and manner in which disclosure of the information could result in substantial competitive harm

This type of commercial information would generally not be subject to routine public inspection under the Commission's rules (47 C.F.R. § 0.457(d)), demonstrating that the Commission already anticipates that the release of this kind of information likely would produce competitive harm. Indeed, the Commission and reviewing courts have frequently permitted confidential treatment of the type of information in question.<sup>4</sup> CenturyLink confirms that release of the information designated as confidential in this filing would cause it substantial competitive harm by allowing its competitors to become aware of sensitive proprietary information regarding the operation of CenturyLink businesses. CenturyLink is subject to actual and potential competition with regard to all of the relevant services. Unless this data is given confidential treatment, competitors will obtain an unfair competitive advantage – for example, by obtaining a detailed picture of CenturyLink's performance at a granular level in different geographic areas enabling competitors to target their efforts in these areas in an unfair manner.

Measures taken by CenturyLink to prevent unauthorized disclosure; and availability of the information to the public and extent of any previous disclosure of the information to third parties

CenturyLink has treated and treats the non-public information disclosed in this filing as confidential and has protected it from public disclosure to parties outside the company.

Justification of the period during which CenturyLink asserts the material should not be available for public disclosure

CenturyLink cannot determine at this time any date on which this information should not be considered confidential or would become stale for purposes of the current matters, except that the information would be handled in conformity with general CenturyLink records retention policies, absent any continuing legal hold on the data.

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<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., *Cox Communications, Inc.; Request for Confidentiality for Information Submitted on Forms 325 for the Year 2003*, 19 FCC Rcd 12160, ¶ 12 (2004); *National Parks and Conservation Ass'n v. Morton*, 498 F.2d 765, 770 (D.C. Cir. 1974); and *Critical Mass Energy Project v. NRC*, 830 F.2d 278, 873 (D.C. Cir. 1987).

Other information that CenturyLink believes may be useful in assessing whether its request for confidentiality should be granted

Under applicable Commission and court rulings, the information in question should be withheld from public disclosure. Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act shields information that is (1) commercial or financial in nature; (2) obtained from a person outside government; and (3) privileged or confidential. The information in question satisfies this test.

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **Federal Registration Numbers for CENTURYLINK OPERATING COMPANIES**

#### Tariff F.C.C. No. 9 Participants

0001-8252-98

0002-3372-44

0002-3825-70

0001-9523-40

0001-7770-36

0001-6851-48

0005-0517-68