

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of:)	
)	
CenturyTel Operating Companies Tariff FCC No. 1)	Transmittal No. 23
)	
Telephone Utilities Exchange Carrier Tariff FCC No. 2)	Transmittal No. 176
)	
)	

**WORLDCOM PETITION TO REJECT OR,
IN THE ALTERNATIVE, SUSPEND AND INVESTIGATE**

WorldCom, Inc. (WorldCom), pursuant to Section 1.773 of the Commission's Rules, hereby petitions the Commission to reject or, in the alternative, suspend and investigate the above-captioned transmittals filed by the CenturyTel Operating Companies and the Telephone Utilities Exchange Carrier Association (CenturyTel) on July 3, 2002.¹

¹ Rejection of a proposed tariff or proposed changes to an existing tariff is warranted when the proposal is prima facie unlawful in that it can be demonstrated that it conflicts with the Communications Act or a Commission, rule, regulation or order. See, e.g., American Broadcasting Companies, Inc. v. FCC, 633 F.2d 133, 138 (D.C.Cir. 1980); Associated Press v. FCC, 448 F.2d 1095, 1103 (D.C.Cir. 1971); MCI v. AT&T, 94 FCC 2d 332, 340-41 (1983); AT&T, 67 FCC 2d 1134, 1158 (1978), recon. denied, 70 FCC 2d 2031 (1979).

Suspension and investigation of a proposed tariff or tariff modification is warranted when significant questions of unlawfulness arise in connection with the tariff. See AT&T Transmittal No. 148, Memorandum Opinion and Order, FCC 84-421 (released Sept. 19, 1984); ITT, 73 FCC 2d 709, 719 (1979); AT&T, 46 FCC 2d 81,86 (1974); see also Arrow Transportation Company v. Southern Railway Company, 372 U.S. 658 (1963).

In the above-captioned transmittals, CenturyTel proposes to substantially revise Section 2.4.1(A) of its interstate access tariff. The tariff changes proposed by CenturyTel mirror those recently filed by NECA in Transmittal No. 940. Whereas the existing tariff language specifies that CenturyTel may request a security deposit only from those existing customers that have a history of late payments, the new tariff language would permit CenturyTel to demand a security deposit “[i]f the Telephone Company becomes aware that the customer’s credit worthiness has fallen below commercially acceptable levels as determined by an independent credit rating or reporting service.”²

The Commission should reject or, in the alternative, suspend and investigate the above-captioned transmittals for the reasons stated in WorldCom’s July 5, 2002 Petition to Reject or, in the Alternative, Suspend and Investigate NECA Transmittal No. 940, which WorldCom is incorporating by reference and providing as an Attachment to this petition. Specifically, the Commission should reject or, in the alternative, suspend and investigate the above-captioned transmittals because (1) the above-captioned transmittals violates a Commission prescription; (2) the proposed tariff language is vague and ambiguous in violation of Sections 61.2 and 61.54(j) of the Commission’s rules; (3) the proposed tariff language is unjust and unreasonable in violation of Section 201(b) of the

² CenturyTel Transmittal No. 23, 1st revised page 2-27.

Act; and (4) CenturyTel has failed to make the showing required by the Commission's "substantial cause" test.

Respectfully submitted,
WORLDCOM, INC.

/s/ Alan Buzacott

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July 10, 2002

STATEMENT OF VERIFICATION

I have read the foregoing and, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, there is good ground to support it, and it is not interposed for delay. I verify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on July 10, 2002.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Alan Buzacott, do hereby certify that copies of the foregoing Petition to Reject or, in the Alternative, Suspend and Investigate, were sent via first class mail, postage paid, and by facsimile*, to the following on this 10th day of July, 2002.

Tamara Preiss**
Chief, Competitive Pricing Division
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Judy Nitsche**
Federal Communications Commission
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Hand Delivered**
/s/

Alan Buzacott

ATTACHMENT

**WORLD COM PETITION TO REJECT OR,
IN THE ALTERNATIVE, SUSPEND AND INVESTIGATE
NECA TRANSMITTAL NO. 940**