



**CenturyLink™**  
Jason D. Topp  
Senior Corporate Counsel - Regulatory  
(612) 672-8905

**RECEIVED**

MAR 30 2012

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

March 30, 2012

Mr. Darrell Nitschke  
Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC ETC Filing

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

On November 18, 2011, the FCC released its *USF/ICC Transformation Order*. With that Order, the FCC has begun a transition to a national framework for certification of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (“ETCs”) and has set forth a standard set of information that all ETCs must file by April 1 of each year. The Order also requires ETCs to file the same information with the respective state commissions.

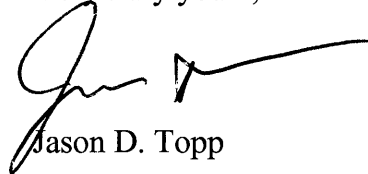
For 2012, ETCs must file information by April 2, 2012 that fulfills 47 C.F.R. 54.313(a)(2) through (a)(6) to the extent the information has been provided to the state commissions pursuant to state ETC certification requirements. Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink (“CenturyLink”) hereby provides this information to North Dakota as required by the *USF/ICC Transformation Order*. Additional state-specific ETC certification requirements will be provided pursuant to North Dakota obligations and on current filing schedules. Consistent with past years, you will need to certify to the FCC pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 54.314 in order for CenturyLink to continue receiving Federal high cost support in North Dakota.

Information that fulfills 47 C.F.R. 54.313(a)(7), (a)(8), and (h) will be filed after notice from the FCC of OMB approval of the new reporting requirements for these items. CenturyLink will provide this information to North Dakota when it is filed with the FCC.

Mr. Darrell Nitschke  
Page 2  
March 30, 2012

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this filing.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason D. Topp", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JDT/bardm

Enclosures

**2012 ETC Reporting Requirements**  
**Reports Satisfying Requirements of FCC-11-161**

**Name of ETC Applicant:** Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC

---

**Study Area Code:** 385144

---

**Filing date:** April 1, 2012

---

**State:** North Dakota

---

**Person to contact for questions:**

**Name:** Rachel Torrence

---

**Phone number:** 303.707.7036

---

**E-mail address:** Rachel.Torrence@CenturyLink.com

---

**State Filing Details:**

As a previously designated ETC and pursuant to PU-05-575 the Company has filed as its annual report a memorandum with the State of North Dakota indicating that no traditional high-cost support is being received and as such that it has no requirement to show how such support is used.

The data contained in this filing complies with the requirements set forth in FCC 11-161 and §54.313 as amended. To the extent that the State of North Dakota requires additional information, that data will be provided in the scheduled 2012 annual reporting for previously designated ETCs which would occur on or before August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**2012 ETC Reporting Requirements**  
**Table of Contents**

Report 1: § 54.313 (a) (1) - Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan ..... 3

Report 2: § 54.313 (a) (2) - Outage Report..... 4

Report 3: § 54.313 (a) (3) - Requests for Service ..... 5

Report 4: § 54.313 (a) (4) - Complaints per 1,000 Connections..... 6

Report 5: § 54.313 (a) (5)-(6) - Certifications ..... 7

Report 6: § 54.313 (a) (7) – Current Price Offerings..... 8

Report 7: § 54.313 (a) (8) - Company Identification ..... 9

Report 8: § 54.313 (a) (9) - Tribal Outreach..... 10

Report 9: § 54.313 (f) (2) - Annual Financial Report ..... 11

Report 10: § 54.313 (g) - Areas with No Terrestrial Backhaul ..... 12

Report 11: § 54.313 (h) - Additional Voice Rate Data. .... 13

**Attachments**

**Attachment 5** –Certifications

**Report 1: § 54.313 (a) (1) - Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan**

1. A progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to §54.202(a), including maps detailing its progress towards meeting its plan targets, an explanation of how much universal service support was received and how it was used to improve service quality, coverage, or capacity, and an explanation regarding any network improvement targets that have not been fulfilled in the prior calendar year. The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.
  - 1.1 Previously Submitted Plan
  - 1.2 Narrative of Progress
  - 1.3 Supporting Documents and Maps

\*\*\*\*\*

**Response:**

Per the Wireline Competition Bureau’s Clarification Order in DA 12-147, issued on February 3rd, 2012, paragraph 7, this provision does not apply to CenturyLink for this filing period.

**Report 2: § 54.313 (a) (2) - Outage Report**

- 2. Detailed information on any outage in the prior calendar year, as that term is defined in §54.202(a),
  - (i) At least ten percent of the end users served in a designated service area;
  - Or
  - (ii) A 911 special facility, as defined in 47 CFR 4.5(e)
  - (iii) Specifically, the eligible telecommunications carrier's annual report must include information detailing:
    - (A) The date and time of onset of the outage;
    - (B) A brief description of the outage and its resolution;
    - (C) The particular services affected;
    - (D) The geographic areas affected by the outage;
    - (E) Steps taken to prevent a similar situation in the future; and
    - (F) The number of customers affected.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Response:**

As the data requested has not been previously provided as part of a North Dakota ETC filing, this provision does not apply to CenturyLink QC for this filing period.

**Report 3: § 54.313 (a) (3) - Requests for Service**

3. Report detailing:

- The number of requests for service from potential customers within the recipient's service areas that were unfulfilled during the prior calendar year; and
- The carrier shall also detail how it attempted to provide service to those potential customers.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Response:**

As the data requested has not been previously provided as part of a North Dakota ETC filing, this provision does not apply to CenturyLink QC for this filing period.

**Report 4: § 54.313 (a) (4) - Complaints per 1,000 Connections**

4. The number of complaints per 1,000 connections (fixed or mobile) in the prior calendar year

\*\*\*\*\*

**Response:**

As the data requested has not been previously provided as part of a North Dakota ETC filing, this provision does not apply to CenturyLink QC for this filing period.

**Report 5: § 54.313 (a) (5)-(6) - Certifications**

- 5. Certification that the carrier is complying with applicable state and federal requirements, including but not limited to, service quality standards and consumer protection rules and attesting to ability to function in emergency situations as set forth in §54.202(a)(2).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Response:**

See Attachment 5 – Certifications including Compliance with Applicable Service Quality Standards, Compliance with Consumer Protection Rules, and Ability to Function in Emergency Situations.

**Report 6: § 54.313 (a) (7) - Current Price Offerings**

6. The company's price offerings in a format as specified by the Wireline Competition Bureau.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Response:**

The Wireline Competition Bureau has not yet established a format for the requested information, as specified in §54.313(a)(2)(iii)(F)(7), nor has this provision received Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval as of the date of this filing. Therefore, no response is required at this time.

**Report 7: § 54.313 (a) (8) - Company Identification**

7. The recipient’s holding company, operating companies, affiliates, and any branding (a “dba,” or “doing-business-as company” or brand designation), as well as universal service identifiers for each such entity by Study Area Codes, as that term is used by the Administrator.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Response:**

This provision has not yet received Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval as of the date of this filing. Therefore, the requested information will be subsequently filed as appropriate.

**Report 8: § 54.313 (a) (9) - Tribal Outreach**

- 8. To the extent the recipient serves Tribal lands, documents or information demonstrating that the ETC had discussions with Tribal governments that, at a minimum, included:
  - 8.1 A needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions;
  - 8.2 Feasibility and sustainability planning;
  - 8.3 Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
  - 8.4 Rights of way processes, land use permitting, facilities siting, environmental and cultural preservation review processes; and
  - 8.5 Compliance with Tribal business and licensing requirements.
    - Tribal business and licensing requirements include business practice licenses that Tribal and non-Tribal business entities, whether located on or off Tribal lands, must obtain upon application to the relevant Tribal government office or division to conduct any business or trade, or deliver any goods or services to the Tribes, Tribal members, or Tribal lands.
    - These include certificates of public convenience and necessity, Tribal business licenses, master licenses, and other related forms of Tribal government licensure.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Response:**

This provision does not apply to CenturyLink for this filing period. Per the Wireline Competition Bureau’s Clarification Order in DA 12-147, issued on February 3rd, 2012, paragraph 11, “...ETC’s are required to undertake their Tribal engagement obligations in 2012 after ONAP (Office of Native American Programs) provides engagement process guidance, which will be the substance of the reporting beginning April 1, 2013 and annually thereafter.”

**Report 9: § 54.313 (f) (2) - Annual Financial Report**

Applicable to Privately held rate-of-return carriers only

9. A full and complete annual report of the company’s financial condition and operations as of the end of the preceding fiscal year, which is audited and certified by an independent certified public accountant in a form satisfactory to the Commission, and accompanied, by a report of such audit. The annual report shall include;
- balance sheets,
  - income statements, and
  - cash flow statements along with necessary notes to clarify the financial statements.

The income statements shall itemize revenue, including non-regulated revenue, by its sources.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Response:**

CenturyLink is a publically traded Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registered company. Therefore this provision is not applicable to CenturyLink QC.

**Report 10: § 54.313 (g) - Areas with No Terrestrial Backhaul**

- 10. Carriers without access to terrestrial backhaul that are compelled to rely exclusively on satellite backhaul in their study area must certify annually that no terrestrial backhaul options exist.
  - 10.1 Carriers without access to terrestrial backhaul that are compelled to rely exclusively on satellite backhaul in their study area must certify annually that no terrestrial backhaul options exist. Any such funding recipients must certify they offer broadband service at actual speeds of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area served by satellite middle-mile facilities. To the extent that new terrestrial backhaul facilities are constructed, or existing facilities improve sufficiently to meet the relevant speed, latency and capacity requirements then in effect for broadband service supported by the CAF, within twelve months of the new backhaul facilities becoming commercially available, funding recipients must provide the certifications required in paragraphs (e) or (f) of this section in full. Carriers subject to this paragraph must comply with all other requirements set forth in the remaining paragraphs of this section.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Response:**

This item is not applicable to CenturyLink QC.

**Report 11: § 54.313 (h) - Additional Voice Rate Data.**

11. All incumbent local exchange carrier recipients of high-cost support must report all of their flat rates for residential local service, as well as state fees as defined pursuant to §54.318(e) of this subpart. Carriers must also report all rates that are below the local urban rate floor as defined in § 54.318 of this subpart, and the number of lines for each rate specified. Carriers shall report lines and rates in effect as of January 1.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Response:**

This provision has not yet received Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval as of the date of this filing. The requested information will be subsequently filed as appropriate.

**AFFIDAVIT CERTIFYING  
COMPLIANCE WITH §54.313(a)(5) AND §54.313(a)(6)**

For the CenturyLink ETCs operating in the states as listed in Appendix A, I, David D. Cole, being of lawful age and duly sworn, on my oath and under penalty of perjury, state that I am the Senior Vice President for Operations Support and Controller of CenturyLink, Inc. ("Company") and that I am authorized to execute this Affidavit on behalf of the Company, and the facts set forth in this Affidavit are accurate to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

The Company hereby certifies to the respective State Regulatory Commission, pursuant to the requirements under 47 C.F.R. §54.313(a)(5) and §54.313(a)(6) that:

- 1) CenturyLink has established operating procedures designed to facilitate compliance with applicable consumer protection rules.
- 2) CenturyLink has established operating procedures designed to facilitate compliance with service quality standards which may include customer remedies and improvement plans. CenturyLink also reports service quality metrics to State Commissions as applicable.
- 3) CenturyLink is able to remain functional in emergency situations as set forth in §54.202(a)(2), and
- 4) all federal universal service support provided to CenturyLink ETCs in their respective states was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.


FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.



DATED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH 2012

David D. Cole  
SVP – Operations Support and Controller  
CenturyLink  
100 CenturyLink Drive  
Monroe, Louisiana 71203-2041

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public Carrick Inabett

My Commission Expires: Death - Bar No. 21635

## Appendix A

### Listing of CenturyLink Eligible Telecommunications Carriers

| COMPANY NAME   | DBA NAME       | Study Area Code | State(s) of Operation |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| CenturyTel of Alabama, LLC (Northern)                  | CenturyLink    | 259789          | AL                    |
| CenturyTel of Alabama, LLC (Southern)                  | CenturyLink    | 259788          | AL                    |
| Gulf Telephone Company                                 | CenturyLink    | 250298          | AL                    |
| CenturyTel of Arkansas, Inc.                           | CenturyLink    | 401705          | AR                    |
| CenturyTel of Central Arkansas, LLC                    | CenturyLink    | 401144          | AR                    |
| CenturyTel of Mountain Home, Inc.                      | CenturyLink    | 401711          | AR                    |
| CenturyTel of Redfield, Inc.                           | CenturyLink    | 401720          | AR                    |
| CenturyTel of South Arkansas, Inc.                     | CenturyLink    | 401727          | AR, LA                |
| CenturyTel of Northwest Arkansas, LLC (Russellville)   | CenturyLink    | 401142          | AR, MO, OK            |
| CenturyTel of Northwest Arkansas, LLC (Siloam Springs) | CenturyLink    | 401143          | AR, OK                |
| Qwest Corporation (Arizona)                            | CenturyLink QC | 455101          | AZ                    |
| CenturyTel of Colorado, Inc.                           | CenturyLink    | 462208          | CO                    |
| Qwest Corporation (Colorado)                           | CenturyLink QC | 465102          | CO                    |
| The El Paso County Telephone Company                   | None           | 462187          | CO                    |
| CenturyTel of Eagle, Inc.                              | CenturyLink    | 462185          | CO, UT                |
| Embarq Florida, Inc.                                   | CenturyLink    | 210341          | FL                    |
| Coastal Utilities, Inc.                                | CenturyLink    | 220356          | GA                    |
| Qwest Corporation (Iowa)                               | CenturyLink QC | 355141          | IA                    |
| CenturyTel of Postville, Inc.                          | CenturyLink    | 351274          | IA                    |
| CenturyTel of Chester, Inc.                            | CenturyLink    | 351126          | IA, MN                |
| CenturyTel of Idaho, Inc.                              | CenturyLink    | 472225          | ID                    |
| CenturyTel of the Gem State, Inc. (Idaho)              | CenturyLink    | 472223          | ID                    |
| Qwest Corporation (Northern Idaho)                     | CenturyLink QC | 475162          | ID                    |
| Qwest Corporation (Southern Idaho)                     | CenturyLink QC | 475103          | ID                    |
| Gallatin River Communications, LLC                     | CenturyLink    | 341057          | IL                    |
| CenturyTel of Central Indiana, Inc.                    | CenturyLink    | 320747          | IN                    |
| CenturyTel of Odon, Inc.                               | CenturyLink    | 320801          | IN                    |
| United Telephone Company of Indiana, Inc.              | CenturyLink    | 320832          | IN, OH                |
| United Telephone Company of Eastern Kansas             | CenturyLink    | 411317          | KS                    |
| United Telephone Company of Kansas                     | None           | 411842          | KS                    |

| <b>COMPANY NAME</b>                             | <b>DBA NAME</b>      | <b>Study Area Code</b> | <b>State(s) of Operation</b> |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| United Telephone Company of Southcentral Kansas | CenturyLink          | 411317                 | KS                           |
| Embarq Missouri, Inc. (Kansas)                  | CenturyLink          | 411957                 | KS                           |
| CenturyTel of Central Louisiana, LLC            | CenturyLink          | 270423                 | LA                           |
| CenturyTel of Chatham, LLC                      | CenturyLink          | 270427                 | LA                           |
| CenturyTel of East Louisiana, LLC               | CenturyLink          | 270440                 | LA                           |
| CenturyTel of Evangeline, LLC                   | CenturyLink          | 270434                 | LA                           |
| CenturyTel of North Louisiana, LLC              | CenturyLink          | 270436                 | LA                           |
| CenturyTel of Ringgold, LLC                     | CenturyLink          | 270439                 | LA                           |
| CenturyTel of Southeast Louisiana, LLC          | CenturyLink          | 270424                 | LA                           |
| CenturyTel of Southwest Louisiana, LLC          | CenturyLink          | 270442                 | LA                           |
| CenturyTel of Northwest Louisiana, Inc.         | CenturyLink          | 270431                 | LA, AR, TX                   |
| CenturyTel Midwest - Michigan, Inc.             | CenturyLink          | 310671                 | MI                           |
| CenturyTel of Michigan, Inc.                    | CenturyLink          | 310702                 | MI                           |
| CenturyTel of Northern Michigan, Inc.           | CenturyLink          | 310705                 | MI                           |
| CenturyTel of Upper Michigan, Inc.              | CenturyLink          | 310689                 | MI                           |
| CenturyTel of Minnesota, Inc.                   | CenturyLink          | 361445                 | MN                           |
| Embarq Minnesota, Inc.                          | CenturyLink          | 361456                 | MN                           |
| Qwest Corporation (Minnesota)                   | CenturyLink QC       | 365142                 | MN                           |
| CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (Belle-Herman)      | CenturyLink          | 429785                 | MO                           |
| CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (Central)           | CenturyLink          | 429784                 | MO                           |
| CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (Southern)          | CenturyLink          | 429786                 | MO                           |
| CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (Southwest)         | CenturyLink          | 429787                 | MO                           |
| Spectra Communications Group, LLC               | CenturyLink          | 421151                 | MO                           |
| Embarq Missouri, Inc.                           | CenturyLink          | 421957                 | MO, IA                       |
| CenturyTel of North Mississippi, Inc.           | None                 | 280458                 | MS                           |
| CenturyTel of Montana, Inc.                     | CenturyLink          | 482249                 | MT                           |
| Qwest Corporation (Montana)                     | CenturyLink QC       | 485104                 | MT                           |
| Central Telephone Company (North Carolina)      | CenturyLink          | 230471                 | NC                           |
| Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company LLC    | CenturyLink Carolina | 230470                 | NC                           |
| Mebtel, Inc.                                    | CenturyLink          | 230485                 | NC                           |
| Qwest Corporation (North Dakota)                | CenturyLink QC       | 385144                 | ND                           |
| Qwest Corporation (Nebraska)                    | CenturyLink QC       | 375143                 | NE                           |
| United Telephone Company of the West (Nebraska) | CenturyLink          | 371595                 | NE                           |
|   |                      |                        |                              |

| <b>COMPANY NAME</b>                                    | <b>DBA NAME</b>                  | <b>Study Area Code</b> | <b>State(s) of Operation</b> |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc.           | CenturyLink                      | 160138                 | NJ                           |
| CenturyTel of the Southwest, Inc.                      | CenturyLink                      | 492274                 | NM                           |
| Qwest Corporation (New Mexico)                         | CenturyLink QC                   | 495105                 | NM                           |
| Central Telephone Company (Nevada)                     | CenturyLink                      | 552348                 | NV                           |
| CenturyTel of the Gem State, Inc. (Nevada)             | CenturyLink                      | 552223                 | NV                           |
| CenturyTel of Ohio, Inc.                               | CenturyLink                      | 300630                 | OH                           |
| United Telephone Company of Ohio                       | CenturyLink                      | 300661                 | OH                           |
| CenturyTel of Oregon, Inc.                             | CenturyLink                      | 532361                 | OR                           |
| Qwest Corporation (Oregon)                             | CenturyLink QC                   | 535163                 | OR                           |
| United Telephone Company of the Northwest (Oregon)     | CenturyLink                      | 532400                 | OR                           |
| CenturyTel of Eastern Oregon, Inc.                     | CenturyLink                      | 532361                 | OR, CA                       |
| United Telephone Company of Pennsylvania LLC, The      | CenturyLink                      | 170209                 | PA                           |
| United Telephone Company of the Carolinas LLC          | CenturyLink of the Carolinas     | 240506                 | SC                           |
| Qwest Corporation (South Dakota)                       | CenturyLink QC                   | 395145                 | SD                           |
| CenturyTel of Claiborne, Inc.                          | CenturyLink Claiborne            | 290557                 | TN                           |
| CenturyTel of Ooltewah-Collegedale, Inc.               | CenturyLink Ooltewah-Collegedale | 290574                 | TN                           |
| United Telephone Southeast, LLC (Tennessee)            | CenturyLink                      | 290567                 | TN                           |
| CenturyTel of Adamsville, Inc.                         | CenturyLink Adamsville           | 290552                 | TN, MS                       |
| Central Telephone Company of Texas, Inc.               | CenturyLink                      | 442114                 | TX                           |
| CenturyTel of Lake Dallas, Inc.                        | CenturyLink                      | 442101                 | TX                           |
| CenturyTel of Port Aransas, Inc.                       | CenturyLink                      | 442117                 | TX                           |
| CenturyTel of San Marcos, Inc.                         | CenturyLink                      | 442140                 | TX                           |
| United Telephone Company of Texas, Inc                 | CenturyLink                      | 442084                 | TX                           |
| Qwest Corporation (Utah)                               | CenturyLink QC                   | 505107                 | UT                           |
| United Telephone Southeast, LLC (Virginia)             | CenturyLink                      | 190567                 | VA                           |
| Central Telephone Company of Virginia                  | CenturyLink                      | 190254                 | VA, NC                       |
| CenturyTel of Inter-Island, Inc.                       | CenturyLink                      | 522408                 | WA                           |
| CenturyTel of Washington, Inc.                         | CenturyLink                      | 522408                 | WA                           |
| Qwest Corporation (Washington)                         | CenturyLink QC                   | 525161                 | WA                           |
| United Telephone Company of the Northwest (Washington) | CenturyLink                      | 522400                 | WA                           |
| CenturyTel of Cowiche, Inc.                            | CenturyLink                      | 522410                 | WA                           |
| CenturyTel of Central Wisconsin, LLC                   | CenturyLink                      | 331159                 | WI                           |