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Kent Blickensderfer
State Legislative Affairs Director



May 23, 2014

Mr. Darrell Nitschke, Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E Boulevard Avenue – State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480



Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Attached for filing with the Commission are an original and one copy of the North Dakota Access Service Price Schedule.

As described in the attached narrative (“Description of Methodology”), this filing is the third step in implementing the “Transitional Intrastate Access Service” reductions mandated by the Federal Communications Commission's November 18, 2011 Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in WC Docket Nos. 10-90, etc. (FCC 11-161). Also enclosed is the CenturyLink certification certifying that CenturyLink is not seeking duplicative recovery in the state jurisdiction for any Eligible Recovery subject to the recovery mechanism established by the Transformation Order. The calculations supporting this rate change are being filed as confidential.

We have shown July 1, 2014 as the effective date. We would appreciate acknowledgment of receipt of this filing. An additional copy of this transmittal letter and a self-addressed, stamped envelope, are enclosed. Please date stamp the copy and return it to us.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mark Brinton at 303-992-5832 or via email at Mark.Brinton@CenturyLink.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KA Blick", written in a cursive style.

Kent Blickensderfer
State Legislative Affairs Director

Enclosures

Qwest Corporation
Access Service
Price Schedule

State of North Dakota
 Effective: 7-1-2014

SECTION 6
 Page 123
 Release 5

6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.8 RATES AND CHARGES (Cont'd)

6.8.2 LOCAL SWITCHING

A. Local End Office Switching

	RATE PER	ACCESS MINUTE
• LS1 - Feature Groups A & B		
- Originating	\$0.010566	
- Terminating	0.001391 (R)	
• LS2 - Feature Groups C & D		
- Originating	0.010566	
- Terminating	0.001391 (R)	
• End Office Shared Port		
- Originating	0.001300	
- Terminating	0.000526 (R)	
• End Office Dedicated Trunk Port,[1] per trunk	USOC	MONTHLY
	P4TWX	RATE
		\$5.11 (R)
		RATE
• 800 DB Access Service		
- 800 CIC, per call		\$0.003461
- Vertical Features		
- POTS Translation Charge, per call		0.003624
- Call Handling and Destination Feature Charge, per query		0.000686
• 900 Access Service Customer Identification Charge, per call		0.000983

[1] The End Office Dedicated Trunk Port rate was calculated assuming a 50/50 split of the originating and terminating traffic using this flat-rated port. The FCC in their FCC 11-161 ICC Transformation order in section 51.907(d)(1) allowed Price Cap Carriers to use an equal split to divide the charge between originating and terminating elements. When the terminating portion of the rate is reduced and then combined with the originating portion of the rate a single flat rate is generated for billing purposes. The Originating portion of the charge is \$3.00.

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Qwest Corporation

Access Service

Price Schedule

SECTION 15

Page 11

Release 7

State of North Dakota

Effective: 7-1-2014

15. COMMON CHANNEL SIGNALING NETWORK (CCSN)

15.8 RATES AND CHARGES

A. Common Channel Signaling Access Capability (Cont'd)

	USOC	NONRECURRING CHARGE	MONTHLY RATE
3. CCS Link			
• First CCS Link	NRBS1,NRME6	\$567.00	—
• Each additional	NRBSA,NRME7	180.00	—
4. STP PORT, per port	PT8SX	—	\$465.00
5. Multiplexing			
• DS1 to Voice	QMVXX,FMCNX	—	363.24
• DS3 to DS1[1]	QM3XX,FMC5X	—	422.45

B. Message Charge

	INTRASTATE RATE	OTHER RATE
1. Signal Formulation		
• ISUP, Per call set-up request		
Originating	\$0.000829	—
Terminating	0.000584 (R)	—
2. Signal Transport		
• ISUP, Per call set-up request		
Originating	0.000559	—
Terminating	0.000394 (R)	—
• TCAP, Per data request	0.000418	\$0.000418
3. Signal Switching		
• Per ISUP, Per call set-up request		
Originating	0.001162	—
Terminating	0.000819 (R)	—
• Per TCAP, Per data request	0.000460	0.000460

[1] For Shared Use only as set forth in 2.7, preceding.

NOTICE

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Qwest Corporation
Access Service
Price Schedule

SECTION 6
Page 123
Release 45

State of North Dakota
Effective: ~~7-2-2013~~ 7-1-2014

6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.8 RATES AND CHARGES (Cont'd)

6.8.2 LOCAL SWITCHING

A. Local End Office Switching

		RATE PER ACCESS MINUTE	
• LS1 - Feature Groups A & B			
- Originating		\$0.010566	
- Terminating		<u>0.001391 (R)</u> 0.001974	(T)
• LS2 - Feature Groups C & D			
- Originating		0.010566	
- Terminating		<u>0.001391 (R)</u> 0.001974	(T)
• End Office Shared Port			
- Originating		0.001300	
- Terminating		<u>0.000526</u> (R)	
		0.000747	(T)
	USOC	MONTHLY RATE	
• End Office Dedicated Trunk Port, ^[1] per trunk	P4TWX	\$6.00 <u>5.11 (R)</u>	(T)
		RATE	
• 800 DB Access Service			
- 800 CIC, per call		\$0.003461	
- Vertical Features			
- POTS Translation Charge, per call		0.003624	
- Call Handling and Destination Feature Charge, per query		0.000686	
• 900 Access Service Customer Identification Charge, per call		0.000983	

[1] The End Office Dedicated Trunk Port rate was calculated assuming a 50/50 split of the originating and terminating traffic using this flat-rated port. The FCC in their FCC 11-161 ICC Transformation order in section 51.907(d)(1) allowed Price Cap Carriers to use an equal split to divide the charge between originating and terminating elements. When the terminating portion of the rate is reduced and then combined with the originating portion of the rate a single flat rate is generated for billing purposes. The Originating portion of the charge is \$3.00. (N)

Qwest Corporation

Access Service

Price Schedule

SECTION 15

Page 11

Release 67

State of North Dakota

Effective: ~~7-2-2013~~ 7-1-2014

15. COMMON CHANNEL SIGNALING NETWORK (CCSN)

15.8 RATES AND CHARGES

A. Common Channel Signaling Access Capability (Cont'd)

	USOC	NONRECURRING CHARGE	MONTHLY RATE
3. CCS Link			
• First CCS Link	NRBS1,NRME6	\$567.00	-
• Each additional	NRBSA,NRME7	180.00	-
4. STP PORT, per port	PT8SX	-	\$465.00
5. Multiplexing			
• DS1 to Voice	QMVXX,FMCNX	-	363.24
• DS3 to DS1[1]	QM3XX,FMC5X	-	422.45

B. Message Charge

	INTRASTATE RATE	OTHER RATE	
1. Signal Formulation			
• ISUP, Per call set-up request			_____ (T)
Originating	\$0.000829	-	_____ (C)
Terminating	<u>0.000584 (R)</u>	-	_____ (C)
2. Signal Transport			
• ISUP, Per call set-up request			_____ (T)
Originating	0.000559	-	_____ (C)
Terminating	<u>0.000394 (R)</u>	-	_____ (C)
• TCAP, Per data request	0.000418	\$0.000418	
3. Signal Switching			
• Per ISUP, Per call set-up request			_____ (T)
Originating	0.001162	-	_____ (C)
Terminating	<u>0.000819 (R)</u>	-	_____ (C)
• Per TCAP, Per data request	0.000460	0.000460	

[1] For Shared Use only as set forth in 2.7, preceding.

NOTICE

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC Description of Methodology

The following narrative describes the methodology and supporting calculations utilized by CenturyLink to implement the process of reducing terminating switched end office rates by one-third of the differential between end office rates and \$0.0007 as required by 47 C.F.R. §51.907(d) which addresses changes beginning July 2014. CenturyLink's supporting calculations utilize the "Access Reduction Spreadsheet" template released by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") on April 14, 2014, for calculating the July 1, 2014 intrastate access rate changes.

The FCC spreadsheet template also provides the methodology for calculating the rate changes and identifies in detail the intrastate access rates that are required to be changed consistent with the rules. Step 3 of the USF ICC Transformation Order adjusts Interstate Terminating End Office Access rates down by one-third of the difference between the baseline composite rate and the target composite rate of \$0.0007. The terminating interstate rates will then be mirrored on the intrastate side so that rates will remain in parity.

Section 51.907(d) of the FCC Rules requires the Access Reduction Spreadsheet to be modified to reflect rate reductions for July 1, 2014. For Price Cap carriers that file interstate tariffs assessing a single rate applicable in different states, the interstate demand used shall be the sum of the demand for all of the states included in the tariff, rather than making separate state-by-state calculations. For companies with a single rate in multiple states, the below calculations are done at the regional level and the regional rates are mirrored in each study area¹. For individual study areas, the below calculations are done at the study area level. An overview of the calculations necessary for reducing terminating end office access rates is as follows:

1. Establish the 2011 Baseline Composite Terminating End Office Access Rates, which reflects interstate rates and demand. (FCC Worksheet Cell J4)
2. Calculate the 2014 Target Composite Terminating End Office Access Rate by reducing the 2011 Baseline Composite Terminating End Office Access Rate by one-third of the difference between the 2011 Baseline Composite terminating End Office Access Rate and \$0.0007. (FCC Worksheet J5)
3. Adjust Interstate terminating End Office Access rates down to where the interstate Composite Terminating End Office access rate is at or below the Target composite Terminating End Office Access rate. (FCC Worksheet Cell J6)
4. Set Intrastate terminating End Office Access rates equal to their functionally equivalent interstate rates.
5. Prepare intrastate and interstate tariff filing documents as required by each tariff jurisdiction.

The FCC's Order also directed that the End Office Dedicated Trunk port charges be split between originating and terminating and that only the terminating portion of the charge be phased down with the transition to bill & keep. CenturyLink has reflected this split in the FCC ICC "Access Reduction Spreadsheet" along with adding a footnote on our tariff page explaining the 50/50 methodology that CenturyLink used to split the rate. We have also shown the frozen Originating portion of the rate that can be subtracted from the blended rate to derive the resulting terminating portion of the charge.

¹ See footnote No. 27 in clarification order: Connect America Fund, et al., DA 14-434, WC Docket No. 10-90 et al.

CERTIFICATION

I am Vice President – Regulatory Operations for the CenturyLink Operating Companies together with Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC (CenturyLink). I have overall responsibility for supervision of the personnel who prepare all of the data supporting CenturyLink’s annual access charge tariff filings with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and I am authorized to execute this certification. I provide this certification based upon the information provided to me by employees responsible for the preparation of the data submitted in support of CenturyLink’s FCC annual access charge tariff filings as well as the data that will be submitted in support of annual state access charge tariff filings as necessary to implement the FCC’s November 18, 2011 USF ICC Transformation Order, FCC 11-161 (WC Docket No. 10-90)(Transformation Order). I have prepared this certification for submission in connection with each of CenturyLink’s state tariff filings as necessary to implement the Transformation Order in 2014. I hereby certify, pursuant to 47 C.F.R 51.915(d)(3), that CenturyLink is not seeking duplicative recovery in the state jurisdiction for any Eligible Recovery subject to the recovery mechanism established by the Transformation Order.

April 30, 2014



Jeff Glover
Vice President – Regulatory Operations

Contact Person: Gary Kepley
Director, Regulatory Operations
Telephone Number: (913) 345-7572