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Kent Blickensderfer
State Legislative Affairs Director



January 3, 2017

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

**Re: Rule 54.312(c)(4) & (5) Certification of CenturyLink; Connect America Fund,
WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

On September 13, 2016, pursuant to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules,¹ CenturyLink, on behalf of its incumbent local exchange carriers receiving 2013 Connect America Fund Phase I incremental support (CAF I Round 2 support), provided notice to the FCC of its intent to use that support for broadband deployment in census blocks that it had not previously identified.²

Since that time, certain parties asserted that they serve all or a portion of the newly identified census blocks in states other than North Dakota. There were no impacted census blocks in North Dakota. CenturyLink provided the list of removed census blocks and the required certification in a letter to the FCC on December 19, 2016.

By this letter, CenturyLink is providing a copy of its FCC filing to the Commission.

Please contact me with any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Blickensderfer".

Kent Blickensderfer
State Legislative Affairs Director

KB/bardm

Enclosure

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 54.312(c)(4).

² CenturyLink also provided notice of these additional census blocks to the Commission in a letter dated September 14, 2016.

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**Certification for Rule 54.312(c)(4) Notice - Connect
America Fund**

Qwest Corporation

Kent Blickensderfer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 3rd day of January, 2017, the original and seven copies of the attached were served upon the following party:

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

and copies sent electronically, addressed to the following:

Kent P. Blickensderfer
State Legislative Affairs Director
CenturyLink
220 North 5th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501



Dianne Barthel



Jeffrey S. Lanning
Vice President – Federal Regulatory Affairs
1099 New York Avenue NW
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Washington, DC 20001
202-429-3113
Jeffrey.s.lanning@centurylink.com

Via ECFS

December 19, 2016

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Rule 54.312(c)(4) & (5) Certification of CenturyLink; *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 13, 2016, pursuant to Commission Rule 54.312(c)(4),¹ CenturyLink, on behalf of its incumbent local exchange carriers receiving 2013 Connect America Fund Phase I incremental support (CAF I Round 2 support) provided notice of its intent to use that support for broadband deployment in 9703 census blocks that it had not previously identified.²

Since filing that notice, 44 parties asserted that they serve all or a portion of 1849 of the newly identified census blocks. CenturyLink has removed these census blocks from its CAF I Round 2 deployment plans.³

¹ 47 C.F.R. §54.312(c)(4). This rule may not be in effect in so far as it seems the FCC has neither sought nor obtained Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) approval for the rule or announced an effective date for the rule. *See* 79 Fed. Reg. 34639 (June 18, 2014) (announcing PRA approval and an effective date for certain information collection requirements including those contained in 47 C.F.R. §54.312(b)(3) which addresses the notice requirement for CAF I incremental support awarded in 2012 (Round 1 support), but without referencing the similar information collection requirements contained in 47 C.F.R. §54.312(c)(4) for Round 2 support). CenturyLink is providing this certification without conceding that the rule is in effect or that the certification is required.

² *See* letter from Jeffrey S. Lanning (CenturyLink), to Marlene H. Dortch (FCC), WC Docket No. 10-90 (Sep. 13, 2016). A copy of the submission to the FCC was also served on USAC on Sep. 13, 2016.

³ Attachment 2 to this letter is a complete list of the census blocks that CenturyLink is removing from its CAF I Round 2 census blocks as a result of the served census block notifications.

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
December 19, 2016
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In accord with Rule 54.312(c)(4), CenturyLink is providing the attached certification.⁴

CenturyLink is uploading this letter, certification and the list in PDF format in WC Docket No. 10-90 via ECFS, and also providing a copy of the cover letter and certification (PDF format), and the list (Excel format) via electronic mail to the Wireline Competition Bureau staff persons identified below.

Copies of this letter and its attachments are also being sent to the Universal Service Administrative Company (with the list in both PDF and Excel formats), relevant state commissions, and affected Tribal governments.

Please contact me with any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeffrey S. Lanning

Enclosures

cc (via e-mail): Heidi Lankau
 Carol Matthey
 Alex Minard

⁴ The certification is Attachment 1 to this letter. The certification language has been modified from the precise language of Rule 54.312(c)(5) to accommodate the timing of the certification and the manner in which CenturyLink develops its capital deployment activities generally, and has done so for this program in particular.

**Certification for CenturyLink's Rule 54.312(c)(4) Notice
Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90**

In accord with 47 C.F.R. § 54.312(c)(4) & (5), with respect to CenturyLink's broadband deployment activity in the additional census blocks identified by CenturyLink on September 13, 2016, for CAF I Round 2 deployment, and as modified by removal of the census blocks subsequently identified by other broadband providers as served, the undersigned certifies that

(1) the locations to be served to satisfy the CAF I Round 2 deployment obligation are not shown as served by fixed broadband at either 768/200 kbps or 3 Mbps/768kbps as appropriate other than by CenturyLink entities on the June 30, 2014 version of the National Broadband Map;

(2) to the best of CenturyLink's knowledge, the locations were as of its acceptance of Round 2 support, in fact, unserved by fixed Internet access with speeds of at least 3 Mbps downstream and 768 kbps upstream, or 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream, as appropriate;

(3) CenturyLink did not have pre-existing investment plans to complete broadband deployment during the term of the CAF I Round 2 program to the locations to be counted to satisfy the CAF I Round 2 deployment obligation, and CenturyLink would not be deploying or have deployed service at 4/1 Mbps to these locations were it not for its participation in the CAF I Round 2 program;

(4) the CAF I Round 2 support has not and will not be used to satisfy any merger commitment or similar regulatory obligation; and

(5) CenturyLink has undertaken due diligence to determine that the locations in question are not within the service area of either Broadband Initiatives Program or the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program projects that will provide Internet access with speeds of at least 3 Mbps downstream and 768 upstream.

Sincerely,



Brian Butram
Vice President, Network Planning
CenturyLink