

CenturyLink  
600 New Century Pkwy.  
New Century, KS 66031

Alan Lubeck  
Director Public Policy II



June 25, 2019

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

**Re: CenturyLink 2019 Federal ETC filing**

Dear Mr. Kahl:

On November 18, 2011, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) released its *USF/ICC Transformation Order* in WC Docket No. 10-90, et al. With that Order, the FCC began a transition to a national framework for certification of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (“ETCs”) and set forth a standard set of information that all ETCs must file with the FCC typically by July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The Order also required ETCs to provide the same information to the respective state commissions.

Annual ETC reporting requirements are contained in 47 C.F.R. § 54.313 of the FCC’s rules. For the reporting of the data and certifications required by 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 and 54.422, the FCC has developed a reporting template, Form 481, to be utilized by ETCs.

The FCC Form 481 no longer requires that high-cost recipients file information regarding network outages; unfulfilled service requests; the number of complaints received by an ETC per 1,000 subscribers for voice and broadband services; and pricing for voice and broadband services. The FCC Form 481 also no longer includes certifications for high-cost recipients regarding service quality standards and consumer protection rules. Finally, the FCC centralized filing of the FCC Form 481 and ETCs no longer file duplicate copies of FCC Form 481 with the FCC and with states, U.S. Territories, and/or Tribal governments.

These filings are now provided to USAC through its online “E-File” portal and are available to state commissions through the portal. USAC has provided instructions indicating that: Applicants are required to complete and submit all forms online through USAC’s “E-File” portal at <https://forms.universalservice.org/usaclogin/login.asp>. A Form 481 is required to be submitted through this link. To create an online E-File account, please refer to the instructions on <http://www.usac.org/about/tools/e-file.aspx>

Mr. Steven Kahl  
June 25, 2019  
Page 2

Enclosed, pursuant to state requirements, is FCC Form 481 for Qwest Corporation-North Dakota d/b/a CenturyLink QC, as filed by CenturyLink with the FCC on or before July 1. The form is also available electronically through the USAC portal as noted above.

Consistent with past years, CenturyLink requests that the Commission certify to the FCC pursuant to 47 C.F.R § 54.314 by October 1, 2019 in order for CenturyLink to continue receiving Federal high cost support in North Dakota.

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

Sincerely,

*Al Lubeck*

Alan Lubeck  
Director Public Policy II

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Enclosure

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 26th day of June, 2019, the original of the foregoing letter and 2019 Federal ETC Filing were served upon the following parties:

Mr. Steven Kahl  
Interim Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480  
[ndpsc@nd.gov](mailto:ndpsc@nd.gov)

and copies sent electronically, addressed to the following:

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Dianne Barthel