

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

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Section 63.71 Application of	)	
	)	
Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC	)	WC Docket No. 25-_____
	)	
For Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of the	)	
Communications Act of 1934, As Amended,	)	
to Discontinue a Telecommunications	)	
Service	)	

**SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION**

Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC (FRN: 0003-7467-57) (CenturyLink)<sup>1</sup> seeks authority pursuant to Section 63.71 of the Federal Communications Commission’s (Commission’s) rules, 47 CFR § 63.71, and Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214, to discontinue legacy voice service (the Affected Service) in Leonard, North Dakota. The proposed discontinuance area is shown on the map in Attachment A (Affected Service Area).

CenturyLink seeks to cease operation of the network facilities used to provide legacy voice service in the Affected Service Area because it is no longer cost-effective to maintain the copper infrastructure for the limited number of customers subscribing to the Affected Service.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Qwest Corporation is a subsidiary of Lumen Technologies, Inc. (FRN: 0018-6268-53).

<sup>2</sup> As the Commission noted in its recently adopted Network Modernization Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, legacy voice services are not in high demand. *See, e.g., Reducing Barriers to Network Improvements and Service Changes, Accelerating Network Modernization*, WC Docket Nos. 25-209 & 25-208, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 25-37, ¶¶ 8, 42 (rel. July 25, 2025). Continued network investment in the Affected Service Area would present a substantial cost that is unlikely to be recoverable given the small number of remaining CenturyLink customers in this area and the presence of another provider, MLGC, LLC, which recently invested in a fiber-to-the-premise network in the Affected Service Area. Application of Griggs

CenturyLink seeks to discontinue service in the Affected Service Area on October 6, 2025, or as soon thereafter as it obtains Commission approval and any necessary approvals from the North Dakota Public Service Commission.

The public convenience and necessity will not be adversely affected by this discontinuance because affected customers can seek alternative service arrangements from other providers. In particular, MLGC, LLC, the wholly owned subsidiary of Griggs County Telephone Company (Griggs), offers legacy voice service in the Affected Service Area.<sup>3</sup> And, according to the Commission's National Broadband Map, AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon also provide wireless 4G LTE voice service in the Affected Service Area.

CenturyLink submits the following information required by Sections 63.505 and 63.71(c) of the Commission's rules:

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County Telephone Company for Designation as the Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier, Certificate for Public Convenience and Necessity, and Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation, North Dakota Public Service Commission, Case No. PU-24-386, ¶ 5 (Dec. 23, 2024), available at <https://www.psc.nd.gov/database/documents/24-0386/001-010.pdf> (stating "Griggs has 100% overbuilt [CenturyLink] in [Leonard, ND] with fiber through its wholly-owned subsidiary, MLGC, LLC").

<sup>3</sup> Earlier this year, Griggs was designated an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier in the Affected Service Area by the North Dakota Public Service Commission. Griggs County Telephone Co. Leonard and Kindred Exchanges Public Convenience & Necessity, Griggs County Telephone Co. Designated Eligible Carrier Application, Case Nos. PU-24-386 & PU-24-387, Order (Mar. 26, 2025), available at <https://www.psc.nd.gov/database/documents/24-0386/022-010.pdf>. *See also* Comments of Griggs County Telephone Company, Case Nos. PU-24-386 & PU-24-387, Attachment 2, MLGC Call Flows Diagram (Feb. 21, 2025), available at <https://www.psc.nd.gov/database/documents/24-0386/014-010.pdf> (showing how the time division multiplexing-based (TDM-based) local traffic is incorporated into MLGC, LLC's network in the Affected Service Area). Griggs also offers voice over internet protocol service to customers throughout the Affected Service Area.

**1. INFORMATION REQUIRED BY 47 CFR §§ 63.505, 63.71(C).**

**a. Name and address of applicant.**

Qwest Corporation  
100 CenturyLink Drive  
Monroe, Louisiana 71203

**b. Date of planned service discontinuance.**

As of October 6, 2025, or as soon thereafter as the necessary regulatory approvals can be obtained, CenturyLink will no longer offer the Affected Service in the Affected Service Area.

**c. Description of Affected Service Area.**

CenturyLink seeks authorization to discontinue the Affected Service in Leonard, North Dakota. Specifically, CenturyLink plans to discontinue legacy voice service to the service locations in the area shown in Attachment A that are served or potentially could be served by CenturyLink.<sup>4</sup> The network infrastructure that CenturyLink seeks to discontinue passes 396 known living units, and 17 customers currently subscribe to CenturyLink's legacy voice service.<sup>5</sup>

**d. Description of Affected Service.**

The Affected Service is a TDM-based voice service that provides voice-grade telephonic communications channels that can be used by residential or business subscribers to place or receive one call at a time.

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<sup>4</sup> See Attachment A. Attachment B provides a list of the affected Census Blocks in the Affected Service Area.

<sup>5</sup> There may be additional potential service locations in the Affected Service Area that are not known to CenturyLink and, thus, are not in its network and operating systems. CenturyLink is aware only of locations at which it has provided service, or which are included in various system updates obtained from third-party sources in the ordinary course of business.

**e. Description of customer notification in the Affected Service Area.**

CenturyLink sent written notification of the planned discontinuance to all customers in the Affected Service Area, as required by Section 63.71(a) of the Commission's Rules. Customer notifications were sent by United Parcel Service or U.S. Mail on August 1, 2025. A copy of the customer notification letter CenturyLink mailed to its customers in the Affected Service Area is attached to this application (Attachment C).

**f. Statement regarding carrier dominance in the Affected Service Area.**

CenturyLink is a non-dominant carrier with respect to the service to be discontinued.

**g. Notification of relevant authorities.**

In accordance with Section 63.71(a) of the Commission's Rules, CenturyLink has mailed a copy of this application to the Governor of North Dakota and the North Dakota Public Service Commission, as well as to the Special Assistant for Telecommunications under the Secretary of Defense. There are no federally recognized Tribal Nations with Tribal lands in the Affected Service Area.

**h. Impact on tariff listing.**

Tariffed rates of the alternate service provider in the Affected Service Area are available through the North Dakota Public Service Commission's website.

**i. Statement on toll messages.**

CenturyLink's toll traffic to and from the Affected Service Area has steadily fallen with the dwindling number of legacy voice customers in that and surrounding areas and the common use of mobile wireless services for long distance calling. CenturyLink does not track the monthly number of toll messages or toll revenues in this area.

**2. CONCLUSION.**

The public convenience and necessity will not be adversely affected by the discontinuance of CenturyLink's legacy voice service in the Affected Service Area. Advance notice has been provided to all affected customers, giving them ample time to arrange replacement services, which are readily available from other providers. CenturyLink therefore respectfully requests that the Commission approve this Section 63.71 application.<sup>6</sup>

Respectfully submitted,

**QWEST CORPORATION**

By: /s/ Stephanie Minnock  
Stephanie E. Minnock  
Lumen Technologies, Inc.  
660 North Capitol Street, NW  
Suite 240  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 519-2899  
stephanie.minnock@lumen.com

Its Attorney

**DATE:** August 4, 2025

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<sup>6</sup> Although Lumen proposes in this application to discontinue certain TDM-based voice services, this discontinuance is not a "technology transition," as defined in Section 63.60(i) of the Commission's Rules, as the affected customers can choose to switch to a TDM-based voice service offered by Griggs.



ATTACHMENT B

Census Blocks (2020)	Partial
380170401001631	Y
380170401001632	Y
380170401001634	Y
380170401001635	Y
380170401001636	Y
380170401001637	Y
380170401001638	Y
380170401001641	Y
380170401001644	Y
380170401001645	Y
380170401001646	
380170401001647	
380170401001648	Y
380170401001649	
380170401001650	
380170401001651	
380170401001652	
380170401001653	
380170401001654	
380170401001655	
380170401001656	
380170401001657	
380170401001658	
380170401001659	
380170401001660	
380170401001661	
380170401001662	
380170401001663	
380170401001664	
380170401001665	Y
380170401001666	
380170401001667	
380170401001668	Y
380170401001716	Y
380170401001718	Y
380170401001725	Y
380170401001726	
380170401001727	

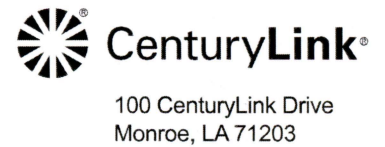
Census Blocks (2020)	Partial
380170406001161	
380170406001162	
380170406001163	
380170406001164	
380170406001165	
380170406001166	
380170406001167	
380170406001168	
380170406001169	
380170406001170	
380170406001171	
380170406001172	
380170406001173	
380170406001174	
380170406001175	
380170406001176	Y
380170406001177	Y
380170406001178	
380170406001179	
380170406001180	
380170406001181	
380170406001182	
380170406001183	
380170406001184	
380170406001185	
380170406001186	
380170406001187	
380170406001188	
380170406001189	
380170406001190	
380170406001191	
380170406001192	
380170406001193	
380170406001194	
380170406001195	
380170406001196	
380170406001197	
380170406001198	

Census Blocks (2020)	Partial
380170406001252	
380170406001253	
380170406001254	
380170406001255	
380170406001264	Y
380170406001266	
380170406001267	
380170406001268	
380170406001269	
380170406001270	
380739689001000	
380739689001001	
380739689001026	Y
380739689001119	Y
380739689001120	Y
380739689001121	Y
380739689001122	
380739689001123	
380739689001124	
380739689001125	
380739689001127	Y
380739689001128	
380739689001132	Y
380739689001133	
380739689001134	Y
380739689001187	Y
380739689001188	
380739689001280	
380739689001281	
380779707002009	Y
380779707002010	
380779707002011	
380779707002012	
380779707002013	
380779707002014	
380779707002020	
380779707002021	
380779707002022	

Census Blocks (2020)	Partial
380170401001728	
380170401001729	
380170401001730	
380170401001731	
380170401001732	
380170401001733	
380170401001734	
380170401001735	Y
380170401001736	Y
380170401001737	
380170401001738	
380170401001746	Y
380170401001747	Y
380170401001768	Y
380170406001130	Y
380170406001132	Y
380170406001133	Y
380170406001136	Y
380170406001137	
380170406001138	Y
380170406001139	Y
380170406001140	Y
380170406001141	
380170406001142	
380170406001143	
380170406001144	Y
380170406001148	
380170406001149	Y
380170406001150	
380170406001151	Y
380170406001156	Y
380170406001157	Y
380170406001158	
380170406001159	
380170406001160	

Census Blocks (2020)	Partial
380170406001199	
380170406001200	
380170406001201	
380170406001202	
380170406001203	
380170406001204	
380170406001205	
380170406001206	
380170406001207	
380170406001208	
380170406001209	
380170406001210	
380170406001211	
380170406001220	
380170406001225	
380170406001226	
380170406001227	
380170406001228	
380170406001229	Y
380170406001236	
380170406001237	
380170406001238	
380170406001239	
380170406001240	
380170406001241	
380170406001242	
380170406001243	
380170406001244	
380170406001245	
380170406001246	
380170406001247	
380170406001248	
380170406001249	
380170406001250	
380170406001251	

Census Blocks (2020)	Partial
380779707002023	Y
380779707002024	Y
380779707002027	Y
380779707002028	
380779707002029	
380779707002030	
380779707002031	
380779707002032	
380779707002033	
380779707002034	
380779707002035	
380779707002036	
380779707002037	
380779707002038	
380779707002039	Y
380779707002048	Y
380779707002049	
380779707002050	
380779707002051	
380779707002052	
380779707002065	
380779707002066	Y
380779707002067	
380779707002068	
380779707002069	Y
380779707002070	
380779707002071	
380779707002072	Y
380779707002073	Y
380779707002082	Y
380779707002083	
380779707002084	
380779707002228	
380779707002229	



August 1, 2025



## Important Notice Regarding the Plan of Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC to Discontinue a Telecommunications Service

Dear [REDACTED],

You are receiving this notice because you currently subscribe to CenturyLink voice service, which provides you with voice-grade telephonic communications channels that can be used to place or receive one call at a time. We plan to **discontinue this service in Leonard, North Dakota on October 6, 2025**, or as soon after that date as authorized by the Federal Communications Commission and the state regulatory commission.

The good news is other voice services are available in your area, including MLGC LLC's traditional wired voice telephone service and voice over internet protocol (VoIP) service. More information about MLGC LLC's voice services can be found here: <https://mlgc.com/>. 4G LTE mobile wireless service is also available in your area from AT&T, Verizon, or T-Mobile.

You may also be eligible to receive **CenturyLink® Connected Voice with Air-Line™**, which delivers the reliability of a home phone backed by the power of today's tech—no internet connection needed. Call us at **1-888-884-2000** Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. or Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (CT) and let the agent know you'd like to switch to Connected Voice.

**Action is required to maintain continuous service at your location and to keep your local telephone number.** If you haven't selected another service or service provider to replace your CenturyLink voice service before **October 6, 2025**, your service will be disconnected at that time, assuming we have obtained necessary regulatory approvals. We urge you to choose another service or contact your new service provider as soon as possible. We are committed to working with you to ensure that you can transition your voice service without interruption.

Please contact [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] if you have any questions or concerns about these changes.

We appreciate your business and hope that we have an opportunity to serve you in the future.

Sincerely,

**Timothy S. White**  
Vice President, Network Implementation and Field Operations  
CenturyLink

ATTACHMENT C

**The following statement is required by FCC rules:**

The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service (or reduction or impairment) unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 15 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. You may file your comments electronically through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System using the docket number established in the Commission's public notice for this proceeding, or you may address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the § 63.71 Application of Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC to Discontinue a Telecommunications Service. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance (or reduction or impairment) upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Marjorie Herlth, do hereby certify that I have caused the foregoing **SECTION 63.71**

**APPLICATION** to be:

- 1) Filed with the Secretary of the FCC via ECFS (Inbox-Section 214 Domestic Discontinuance Application);
- 2) Served via first-class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on the Governor of the State listed on the attached service list;
- 3) Served via first-class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on the Public Utility Commission listed on the attached service list;<sup>1</sup>
- 4) Served via first-class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on the Special Assistant for Telecommunications under the Secretary of Defense.

*/s/ Marjorie Herlth* \_\_\_\_\_

Marjorie Herlth

August 4, 2025

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<sup>1</sup> Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC did not identify any Tribal Nations in the geographic area covered by this Application.

Office of the Governor  
600 E Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0001

North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 E Boulevard Ave, #408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Department of Defense  
Special Assistant for Telecommunications  
Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301