ISSUED: November 4, 2022

## BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

## **OF OREGON**

UM 1908, UM 2206

In the Matters of

LUMEN TECHNOLOGIES,<sup>1</sup>

Proposed Commission Action Pursuant to ORS 756.515 to Suspend and Investigate Price Plan (UM 1908), and

QWEST CORPORATION,

Investigation Regarding the Provision of Service in Jacksonville, Oregon and Surrounding Areas (UM 2206).

Hearing Relating to Order Nos. 22-340 and 22-422

**RULING** 

DISPOSITION: SCHEDULE FOR HEARING FOR REVIEW OF ORDER NO. 22-340 AS MODIFIED BY ORDER NO. 22-422 ADOPTED

On October 6, 2022, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon held a prehearing conference in this consolidated docket. Lumen Technologies (Lumen), Commission Staff, the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) appeared through their representatives, and Priscilla Weaver appeared personally.

Subsequently, on October 11, 2022, I issued a ruling establishing a "Schedule for Consideration of Modifications to Order No. 22-340." After pleadings, the Commission issued Order No. 22-422, which modified Order No. 22-340 and addressed the procedural questions associated with the ongoing investigation into Lumen's price plan. The Commission directed the Administrative Hearings Division to develop a procedural schedule for the price plan investigation, and to schedule a hearing associated with Lumen's challenges to Order No. 22-340 as modified by Order No. 22-422. We will distinguish the two matters as "Hearing Relating to Order Nos. 22-340 and 22-422" and "Price Plan Investigation."

At the prehearing conference, no party indicated an intent to object to Priscilla Weaver's petition to intervene in this matter. I find that Ms. Weaver has sufficient interest in the proceedings, and that her appearance and participation will not unreasonably broaden the issues, burden the record, or delay the proceedings.<sup>2</sup> I granted Ms. Weaver's petition to intervene.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Formerly known as Qwest Corporation, United Telephone Company of the Northwest, CenturyTel of Oregon, and CenturyTel of Eastern Oregon.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> OAR 860-001-0300(6).

After addressing comments from Lumen in a filing to the Commission and during the conference, I explained the difference between intervenors and interested persons.<sup>3</sup> To clarify, an interested person receives notifications of filings made and documents issued by the Commission or Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding. As I explained, an interested person is not a party to the proceeding, and is not entitled to file pleadings, conduct cross-examination of witnesses, become a signatory to a protective order, or file briefs.

Consistent with our internal operating guidelines, comments may be submitted in this docket by interested persons or any member of the public.<sup>4</sup> To become an interested person, one should contact the filing center at <a href="mailto:puc.filingcenter@puc.oregon.gov">puc.oregon.gov</a>, request to be listed as an interested person in this docket, and provide their name and contact information.

In advance of the prehearing conference, Lumen, Staff, and CUB submitted proposals for a procedural schedule. I discussed these options with parties during the prehearing conference. Lumen submitted a proposal which required Staff and other parties to submit testimony first, while Staff proposed the opposite. CUB submitted a proposal suggesting simultaneous filings. I took all comments, proposals, and requests under advisement.

After considering the proposals, I establish and adopt the below procedural schedule:

EVENT	DATE
Requested deadline to file Petitions to	November 16, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
Intervene <sup>5</sup>	
Lumen, Staff, and Intervenors file Written	November 23, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Testimony	
All Parties file Pre-Hearing Briefs	December 9, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Hearing	Via Zoom, details to be provided,
	December 21, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.
All Parties file Post-Hearing Briefs	January 6, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.
Target Date for Commission Decision	January 27, 2023

All filings submitted in this proceeding are due by 3:00 p.m. to provide adequate processing time for the Filing Center. Filings submitted after 3:00 p.m. will be considered filed on the following business day.

Dated this 4th day of November, 2022, at Salem, Oregon.

Nolan Moser Chief Administrative Law Judge

3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> OAR 860-001-0300(7).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See In the Matter of Public Utility Commission of Oregon, Amending Internal Operating Guidelines, Docket No. UM 2055, Order No. 20-386, Appendix A (Oct 27, 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> By statute, a person may petition to intervene at any time before the close of the record. *See* ORS 756.525. Any intervenor is subject to reasonable conditions on their participation in these proceedings. *See* OAR 860-001-0300(6).