




**OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

DATE: July 31, 2015 
TO: File through Bryan Conway and Bruce Hellebuyck 
FROM: Jim Stanage 
SUBJECT: CenturyTel of Oregon, (Advice No. 15-004-PL)
Increases the rates for Directory Assistance Services.

I have reviewed this filing and recommend that an acknowledgement letter be sent. The filing went into effect on June 12, 2015, and was filed on June 10, 2015. CenturyTel of Oregon (CenturyTel) proposes to increase the rates for Directory Assistance Services, which are Price List services.

On October 7, 2014, the Commission issued its Order No. 14-347, in docket UM 1686, approving a *Price Plan* for CenturyTel under ORS 759.255. The filing was submitted on June 10, 2015, and thus, complies with CenturyTel *Price Plan*, Section P, which requires price list changes to be filed at least one day prior to their effective dates and requires that, "(f)or services provided on a per-call basis, the company will give reasonable notice to customers of the price prior to the customer's use of the service." The company states that they have provided the required notice to customers. Telecommunications utilities are required under ORS 759.175 to submit filings to the Commission whenever they intend to change their rates, terms, or conditions of service.

Staff considers Directory Assistance to be included under the Price Plan's definition of "*Other Services*," which states: "Other Services" means any other residential or business services contained in CenturyTel/United's intrastate retail tariffs that are not expressly listed in the Price Plan.

Section H of the Price Plan, *Other Services*, states:

Monthly rates for "Other Services" for business customers will not be subject to price caps. Monthly rates for residential customers may increase up to 50 percent or \$.50, annually, whichever is greater. The cumulative price increase over the term of the Price Plan is not to exceed 200 percent for residential customers.

That is, Section H does not speak the issue of rate increases for services that do not have the distinct classifications of "business" or "residential" associated with their rates *per se*---e.g., per-call basis services like Directory Assistance have a single service rate. I have been advised by counsel that it is reasonable to allow

increases in Directory Assistance rates that do not, in effect, violate the *other services residential rate increase limits* that apply to such increases under the price plan.

The proposed Directory Assistance rate changes are as follows:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Proposed Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Local DA	\$0.50	\$1.00	\$0.50	100.0%
National DA	\$0.85	\$1.35	\$0.50	59.0%
Long Distance				
Operator Assisted DA	\$0.50	\$1.00	\$0.50	100.0%

The filing was submitted on June 10, 2015, and thus, complies with Frontier Price Plan, Section P, which requires filings for price list changes to be made at least one day prior to their effective dates.

This filing complies with the above cited provisions of Section H of the Price Plan and do not exceed the rate increases allowed for Other Services.