


**OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

DATE: December 13, 2018

TO: File through Bryan Conway and Bruce Hellebuyck ^{BAC} ~~SB~~

FROM: Stephen Hayes 

SUBJECT: QWEST CORPORATION: (Docket No. PL 98/Advice No. 2018-005-PL)
Discontinue Call Event and Management Signaling Service

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Qwest Corporation's (dba CenturyLink) Price List filing be acknowledged.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Allow Qwest Corporation (Qwest, CenturyLink, or Company) the effective discontinuance of Call Event Management Signaling Service (CEMSS) to go into effect by tariff filing.

Applicable Law

Normally Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 759.190 would apply which requires tariff filings to be made at least thirty days prior to their effective date. CenturyLink is regulated under alternative price plan regulation pursuant to ORS 759.255. The Commission approved the Price Plan in effect when the filing was made by Order No. 14-346 on October 3, 2014. Under the terms of the Price Plan as specifically allowed by ORS 759.255 Qwest is exempt from ORS 759.190 and is only required to file changes to its price listed services on one day notice.

The Commission's *Abandonment of Service* rule requires customer noticing except in certain circumstances. One of those exceptions is when there are no current customers. In that case a utility may abandon a service by tariff filing.

OAR 860-032-0020(8), states:

A telecommunications utility may request to abandon a regulated service for which there are no current customers by filing a tariff change which deletes the regulated service along with a cover letter or advice letter which clearly and explicitly discloses which regulated service the telecommunications utility proposes to abandon.

Analysis

The Company filed its advice letter 2018-005-PL pursuant to Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 860-032-0020(8) along with Price List Changes on September 27, 2018 with an effective date of September 29, 2018.

Although the company is discontinuing CEMSS, it is not required to file a petition to abandon service under OAR 860-032-0020 because it states that it has no customers subscribing to this service. Consequently, it qualifies under section 8 of the rule to discontinue the service by tariff filing. CenturyLink filed an application with the FCC to discontinue the CEMSS on April 2, 2018 which provides a measure of customer noticing. It also provided notice to its wholesale customers via its normal communication channels on June 28, 2018.

Background

On April 2, 2018 CenturyLink filed a petition under section 214 of the Telecommunications Act with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to discontinue CEMSS as of June 1, 2018. CenturyLink states the petition was granted June 1, 2018. There was only one comment filed in that FCC docket but that commenter was not currently a customer of the service.

Qwest's CEMSS service was offered to wholesale carrier customers as a basic service element to provide access under its open network architecture. Enhanced service providers (ESP) used CEMSS to provide enhanced services within Qwest's local network. CEMSS facilitated communications between an ESP's platform and Qwest's advanced intelligent network capable switches. The advancement of IP technology facilitated the obsolescence of CEMSS.

Conclusion

Staff concludes that Qwest customers would not be deprived of CEMSS. Since there are apparently no current customers this filing would have no revenue effect.