

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: July 28, 2020

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE July 29, 2020

DATE: July 7, 2020

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Malia Brock

THROUGH: Bryan Conway, Michael Dougherty, and Bruce Hellebuyck **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: QWEST CORPORATION:
(Docket No. ADV 1135/Advice No. 2153)
Oregon Telephone Assistance Program Revisions.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the filed tariff be allowed to go into effect on Less than Statutory Notice (LSN) for service on and after July 29, 2020.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether to allow the revised tariff filed by Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC (Qwest) to go into effect with service on and after July 29, 2020 on LSN.

Applicable Law

Telecommunications utilities are required under ORS 759.175 to submit tariff filings to the Commission whenever they intend to change their rates, terms, or conditions of service. On September 28, 2018, with Order No. 18-359, the Commission approved a Price Plan applicable to Qwest, as allowed by ORS 759.255.

Section (8)(a)(i) of Qwest's Price Plan requires tariff changes to be filed at least thirty days prior to their effective dates.

Filings that propose any change in rates, tolls, charges, rules, or regulations must be filed with the Commission at least 30 days before the effective date of the change.
ORS 759.190. Tariff filings to be effective on less than 30 days following notice of the change may be authorized with a waiver of less than statutory notice pursuant to ORS 759.190.

Analysis

Qwest originally filed on June 26, 2020, to propose revisions to Section 5, Sheets 57 and 57.1 of its Exchange and Network Services Tariff, P.U.C. OR. No. 33. Qwest made subsequent related filings on July 6 and July 9. All of these filings were made to conform Qwest's tariff language to the temporary rule adopted in Commission Order No. 20-204 issued in Docket AR 634. Under the temporary rule, the Commission has temporarily changed the amount of support for the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP), set forth in OAR 860-033-0035. The support amount was increased to offset the financial burden of the COVID-19 pandemic on low-income Oregonians and enable qualifying low income households to retain or enhance the supported voice and broadband internet access services they receive. The rule amendments increased the amount of OTAP support for customers that are paying a monthly rate, from \$3.50 up to \$12.00 per month, effective July 1, 2020.

As Qwest's second and third supplemental filings were made on July 6, 2020 and July 9, 2020, and advice is effective on January 29, 2020, Qwest also filed an application for less than statutory notice.

Given the need to correct Qwest's reference to the benefit amount of the OTAP credit, Staff finds it appropriate to approve the tariff effective July 29, 2020, and Staff finds that there is good cause for the LSN to quickly correct the information available to customers in the tariff regarding this benefit.

Conclusion

Staff finds that the filing, with approval of the LSN, complies with the requirements of the Qwest Price Plan and Oregon statutes.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Allow Qwest Advice No. 2153 to go into effect for service rendered on and after July 29, 2020, on less than statutory notice.