



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Public Utility Commission

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February 11, 2021



BY EMAIL

Qwest Corporation, dba Centurylink QC

Robyn.M.Crichton@centurylink.com

RE: Advice No. 2158

At the public meeting on February 11, 2021, the Commission adopted Staff's recommendation in this matter docketed as ADV 1229. The Staff Report, LSN, and a receipted copy of the sheets in your advice filing are attached.

Nolan Moser

Chief Administrative Law Judge

Public Utility Commission of Oregon

(503) 378-3098

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: February 11, 2021

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE February 13, 2021

DATE: January 15, 2021

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Malia Brock

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

SUBJECT: QWEST CORPORATION:
(Docket No. ADV 1229/Advice No. 2158)
Oregon Telephone Assistance Program Revisions.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the filed tariff be allowed to go into effect for service on and after February 13, 2021.

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 February 13, 2021.

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.

Analysis

Qwest originally filed on January 7, 2021, to propose revisions to Section 5, Sheets 55, 56, and 57 of its Exchange and Network Services Tariff, P.U.C. OR. No. 33. Qwest made a subsequent related filing on January 14, 2021.

These filings were made to conform Qwest's tariff language to federal changes in Lifeline benefit amounts effective December 1, 2020. Language is added that states, "Effective December 1, 2020, the Company will issue an additional federal credit equal to the difference between the interstate subscriber line charge and the federal lifeline credit when the interstate subscriber line charge exceeds the federal lifeline credit amount."

The filings also conform to Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP) changes adopted in Commission Order No. 20-492 issued December 29, 2020. Commission Order No. 20-492 amended the OTAP rules in Division 33 and include clarifying revisions for support of broadband service. The filing initially reduced the OTAP benefit amount from \$12.00 to \$7.00, but as revised, the specific dollar figure of the benefit is removed with reference instead to the current authorized credit amount.

Conclusion

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

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Allow Qwest Advice No. 2158 to go into effect for service rendered on and after February 13, 2021.

5. EXCHANGE SERVICES

5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

5.2.6 LIFELINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

A. Federal Lifeline Program (Cont'd)

4. Monthly Credit

	CREDIT USOC	CREDIT AMOUNT
Federal Lifeline Program Credit	[1]	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualifying voice-only service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prior to December 1, 2019 - Effective December 1, 2019 - Effective December 1, 2020 • Qualifying Broadband or bundled service 		\$9.25 7.25 5.25 9.25

[1] **The Company will issue an additional federal credit equal to the difference between the interstate subscriber line charge and the federal lifeline credit when the interstate subscriber line charge exceeds the federal lifeline credit amount.**

(N)
 |
 (N)

Credit is applied as follows: ASGFX* + ASGF2**

* USOC ASGFX applies an amount equal to the Subscriber Line Charge found in Section 4.7.1 of the CenturyLink Operating Companies Tariff F.C.C. No. 11.

** USOC ASGF2 applies the remaining amount required to equal the federal credit **if the federal lifeline credit is greater than the subscriber line charge.**

(N)

When a Tribal Lifeline Credit also applies, the Federal Lifeline Program Credit USOCs are ASGFR + ASGF2.

5. EXCHANGE SERVICES

5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

5.2.6 LIFELINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (CONT'D)

B. Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP)

1. Description

The Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP) is designed to provide low income subscribers who meet OTAP eligibility requirements a reduced rate or discount for basic **and/or broadband** service at their principal place of residence whether sold separately or in combination with other services. For purposes of OTAP, "basic service" means "basic telephone service" as defined in OAR 860-032-0190. For qualifying low-income subscribers, basic service also includes access to toll-limitation services. The OTAP discount is limited to one single line, or single line equivalent, per economic unit at the customer's principal residence in Oregon.

(T)

2. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the OTAP discount, a residential service subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents or the subscriber's household must:

- a. Receive benefits from one of the following public assistance programs:
 - Medicaid under Title XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act;
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program;
 - Supplemental Security Income;
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8); or
 - Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit
- b. Have income that is at or below 135 percent of the applicable federal poverty guidelines for a household of that size.

Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC

P.U.C. OREGON NO. 33
EXCHANGE AND
NETWORK SERVICES

SECTION 5
5th Revised Sheet 57
Cancels 4th Revised Sheet 57

5. EXCHANGE SERVICES

5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

5.2.6 LIFELINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

B. Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP)

3. Terms and Conditions

- a. To qualify for the OTAP discount, a subscriber must demonstrate eligibility for OTAP by making application to the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) on an OPUC-approved form.
- b. The Company provides an OTAP-eligible subscriber the OTAP discount in the form of a monthly credit on the subscriber's bill effective with the date specified for the subscriber by the OPUC. The OTAP credit will be prorated on the basis of a 30-day month from the effective date of the subscriber's eligibility.

4. Monthly Credit

	Credit USOC	Credit Amount	
State Credit for the exchange access line and/or broadband internet access service for OTAP participants	ASGSX	[1][2]	(T)

[1] Effective January 1, 2020, this credit also applies to broadband internet access service.

[2] Oregon Public Utility Commission Authorized Rate. **The currently authorized** credit amount is available in section 5.2.6 of the [Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC Exchange and Network Services Catalog No. 3.](#) (T)

LESS THAN STATUTORY NOTICE APPLICATION ADV 1229

This document may be electronically filed by sending it as an attachment to an electronic mail message addressed to the Commission's Filing Center at puc.filingcenter@state.or.us.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF Qwest Corportation ADV 1229/Advice No. 2158 _____ (UTILITY COMPANY) TO WAIVE STATUTORY NOTICE.)))))	UTILITY L.S.N. APPLICATION NO. <u>2276</u> _____ (LEAVE BLANK)
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NOTE: ATTACH EXHIBIT IF SPACE IS INSUFFICIENT.

1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE(S) ADDITION, DELETION, OR CHANGE. (SCHEDULE INCLUDES ALL RATES, TOLLS AND CHARGES FOR SERVICE AND ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS AFFECTING THE SAME)
 Corrections to to Federal Lifeline Program and Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP) Credit Language

2. APPLICANT DESIRES TO CHANGE THE SCHEDULE(S) NOW ON FILE KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS: (INSERT SCHEDULE REFERENCE BY NUMBER, PAGE, AND ITEM)
 Section 5, Sheets 55, 56 and 57 of its Exchange and Network Services Tariff, P.U.C. OR. No. 33

3. THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE(S) SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS: (INSERT SCHEDULE REFERENCE BY NUMBER, PAGE AND ITEM)
 n/a

4. REASONS FOR REQUESTING A WAIVER OF STATUTORY NOTICE:
 As previously discussed with Oregon Public Utility Commission Sr. Utility Analyst, Ms. Malia Brock, this amendment filing makes minor corrections to the filing that was originally submitted on January 7, 2021

Received
 Filing Center
JAN 14 2021

5. REQUESTED EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE NEW SCHEDULE(S) OR CHANGE(S): February 13, 2021

. AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE 	TITLE Government Operations Manager	DATE January 14, 2021
PUC USE ONLY		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> DENIED	EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED SCHEDULE(S) OR CHANGE February 13, 2021	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE 	DATE 02/11/2021	