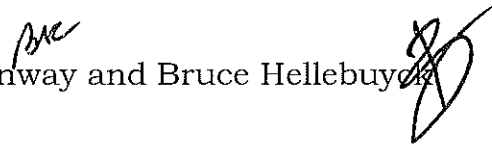



**OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

DATE: February 7, 2019

TO: File through Bryan Conway and Bruce Hellebuyck 

FROM: Russ Beitzel 

SUBJECT: United Telephone Company of the Northwest, (Advice No. 19-001) Increases the rates for Directory Assistance Per Call Rate Services, Directory Listings and Non-sufficient Funds Check.

I have reviewed this filing and recommend that an acknowledgement letter be sent. The filing went into effect on February 1, 2019, and was filed on January 30, 2019. CenturyTel of Oregon (CenturyTel) proposes to increase the rates for Directory Assistance Services, Non-sufficient Funds Check (NSFC) and Directory Listings, which are Price List services.

On September 28, 2018, the Commission issued its Order No. 18-359, in docket UM 1908, approving a *Price Plan* for CenturyTel under ORS 759.255. The filing was submitted on January 30, 2019, and thus, complies with CenturyTel *Price Plan*, Section 8.a.ii, which requires price list changes to be filed at least one day prior to their effective dates. Section 8.b.ii requires that, "For price increases and changes to the terms or conditions of service, CenturyLink will provide 30-day notice to customers who have used the service within the past 12 months." 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 and Non-sufficient Funds Check 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 CenturyLink's Rate Schedules that are not specifically addressed in this Price Plan and does not include Packages and Bundles."

Section 4.k 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 "Other Services" for residential customers may increase up to 50 percent or \$.50 annually, whichever is

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greater. The cumulative price increase for any Other Service over a four-year Plan term may not exceed 200 percent for residential customers.

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>
Directory Assistance	\$3.75	\$4.75	\$1.00	26.7%
NSFC - Business	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$10.00	50.0%

This filing complies with the above cited provisions of Section 4.k of the Price Plan and do not exceed the rate increases allowed for Other Services.

Price increases for Directory Listings are addressed in section 4.h.ii of the Price Plan, which states "Additional listings beyond the initial listing are price capped with increases limited to not more than 25% per Plan year."

<u>Service</u>	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Proposed Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>
AL1 Residential	\$2.25	\$2.80	\$0.55	24.4%
AL1 Business	\$2.25	\$2.80	\$0.55	24.4%
FL Residential	\$2.25	\$2.80	\$0.55	24.4%
FL Business	\$2.25	\$2.80	\$0.55	24.4%
AL2 Residential	\$6.00	\$7.00	\$1.00	16.7%
AL2 Business	\$6.00	\$7.00	\$1.00	16.7%
SL Business	\$3.50	\$4.25	\$0.75	21.4%

AL1 = Additional Listings, FL = Foreign Listing, AL2 = Alpha Listing, SL = Secretarial Listing