

**OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

DATE: May 10, 2021

TO: File through Michael Dougherty and Bruce Hellebuyck

FROM: Russ Beitzel

SUBJECT: Qwest Corporation: (Docket No. PL163/Advice No. 2021-002-PL).
Increases various base rates and grandfathers and abandons various services.

I have reviewed this filing and recommend that an acknowledgement letter be sent. With this filing, Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink (Qwest or Company) proposes to increase various base rates and grandfather and abandons various services.

Issue

Whether the rate and other price list changes proposed by Qwest should be allowed to become effective for service rendered on and after March 1, 2021.

Applicable Rule or Law

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.

Qwest is regulated under a Price Plan pursuant to ORS 759.255 and Order No. 18-359 in Docket No. UM 1908. Section 8.a.ii of the Price Plan requires Qwest to file all price list changes with the Commission at least one day prior to the effective date of the change. Section 8.b of the Price Plan requires Qwest to provide customers with 30-day notice of price changes.

Pursuant to Section 4.f of the Price Plan, monthly rates for various Business Basic Services and Business Other Services, including Measured Services, Flat Business Line, Stand-by Line, Home Business Line, Toll Access Trunks, various Two Way, various One Way, Call Forward BL, Directed Call, Market Expansion Line, Intracall, Speed Calling, are not subject to price caps.

Pursuant to Section 4.k of the Price Plan, monthly rates for residential Other Services, including Call Forward, Directed Call, Hot Line, Selective Call Waiting, Intracall, Custom Ringing, Number Forwarding, Customer Ringing, Call Rejection, Continuous Redial, Three Way Calling, may increase by the greater of 50 percent or \$.50 annually, but may not increase by more than 200 percent over any four-year Plan term.

Pursuant to Section 4.r.ii of the Price Plan, the package or bundle price shall not exceed the sum of the stand-alone retail prices of all available services in the package or bundle.

Pursuant to OAR 860-032-0020(15)(a), grandfathering a service without a sunset date is not considered abandonment of service. OAR 860-032-0020(15)(b) allows a telecommunications utility to grandfather a regulated service, without a sunset date, by filing a tariff which designates the service as grandfathered. Normal tariff filing and review requirements apply to Staff's consideration of such filings, including review for whether the filing is consistent with an applicable Price Plan and relevant PUC orders.

Pursuant to OAR 860-032-0020(8), a telecommunications utility may abandon a service for which there are no current customers. Normal tariff filing and review requirements apply to Staff's consideration of such filings, including review for whether the filing is consistent with an applicable Price Plan and relevant PUC orders.

Analysis

This filing was submitted on February 25, 2021, with a proposed effective date of March 1, 2021, in compliance with the filing requirements stated in Qwest's Price Plan. On May 5, 2021, the Company amended its filing to remove changes in the Trademarks, Trade names and Service Marks section to update the name "CenturyLink, Inc." to "Lumen Technologies, Inc." The rate changes proposed with the present filing are summarized below.

Rate Increases

Qwest's proposed changes to various rates that have increase caps are summarized in the table below.

Service	Pre-Plan Rate	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Current Year \$ Change	Current Year % Change	Cumulative Plan % Change
Call Forward ¹	\$2.05	\$4.50	\$6.00	\$1.50	33.33%	192.68%
Directed Call ¹	\$1.00	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$.75	33.33%	200.00%
Hot Line ¹	\$2.00	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$.50	11.11%	150.00%
Selective Call Wait ¹	\$6.75	\$7.00	\$8.00	\$1.00	14.29%	18.52%
Intracall ¹	\$1.00	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$.75	33.33%	200.00%
Custom Ringing ¹	\$3.50	\$5.00	\$6.00	\$1.00	20.00%	71.43%
Number Forwarding ¹	\$8.00	\$13.00	\$16.00	\$3.00	23.08%	100.00%
Custom Ring Disc ¹	\$2.50	\$5.00	\$6.00	\$1.00	20.00%	140.00%
Call Fwd Var Disc ¹	\$1.50	\$3.25	\$4.50	\$1.25	38.46%	200.00%

Call Rejection Disc ¹	\$2.25	\$4.50	\$6.00	\$1.50	33.33%	166.67%
Contin Redial Disc ¹	\$1.75	\$3.75	\$5.00	\$1.25	33.33%	185.71%
Dial Lock Disc ¹	\$2.00	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$.50	11.11%	150.00%
Remote Acc Fwd ¹	\$2.50	\$5.00	\$6.00	\$1.00	20.00%	140.00%
Selec Call Fwd ¹	\$1.75	\$3.75	\$5.25	\$1.50	40.00%	200.00%
Speed Calling ¹	\$1.00	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$.75	33.33%	200.00%
Three Way Calling ¹	\$1.75	\$3.75	\$5.00	\$1.25	33.33%	185.71%

¹The increases proposed with the present filing do not exceed the greater of \$.50 or 50 percent in the present year or 200 percent in the current Plan term, and therefore comply with the provisions of Qwest's Price Plan.

For Bundled and Packaged services the Company provided evidence that the proposed rates are less than the sum of the stand-alone retail prices.

The Company states that customers were notified of the proposed rate changes.

Grandfathered Services

The services to be grandfathered with the present filing are summarized in the table below.

Type	Service
Abbrev Access One-Digit	Custom Calling Res
Abbrev Access Two-Digit	Custom Calling Res
Dial Lock	Custom Calling Res
Directed Call Pick Up	Custom Calling Res
Directed Call Pick Up Barge-In	Custom Calling Res
Do Not Disturb	Custom Calling Res
Thirty Code capacity	Custom Calling Res
Warm Line	Custom Calling Res
Abbrev Access One-Digit	Custom Calling Bus
Abbrev Access Two-Digit	Custom Calling Bus
Dial Lock	Custom Calling Bus
Directed Call Pick Up	Custom Calling Bus
Directed Call Pick Up Barge-In	Custom Calling Bus
Do Not Disturb	Custom Calling Bus
Thirty Code capacity	Custom Calling Bus
Warm Line	Custom Calling Bus

Information Listings	Listing
Secretarial Listings	Listing

The grandfathered services, with no sunset date, will no longer be available to new customers but will continue to be available to current subscribers.

The Company states that customers were notified of the proposed changes.

Abandoned Services

The services to be abandoned, with no demand, with the present filing are summarized in the table below.

Service
Resid Dial Call Waiting
Resid Distinctive Alert
Bus Dial Call Waiting
Add't Custom Call Features
Intracall Service
Obsolete Disc Rate Bus Call Fwd
Resid Call Curfew
Resid Disc Schedule Fwd
Resid Serv Add't Foreign Listings Disc
Bus E-mail Address Listing
Email/URL Address Listing
Resid Caller ID with Privacy
Fax Pkg
Home Office Pkg

The Company states that customers were notified of the proposed changes.

Conclusion

This filing complies with applicable laws and the provisions of Qwest's Price Plan. The filed tariff sheets should be allowed to become effective, and an acknowledgement letter should be sent.