

**OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

DATE: March 31, 2021

TO: File through Michael Dougherty and Bruce Hellebuyck

FROM: Russ Beitzel

SUBJECT: CenturyTel of Oregon and CenturyTel of Eastern Oregon: (Docket No. PL165/Advice No. 21-002). Increases the monthly rates for Local Directory Assistance and National Directory Assistance.

I have reviewed this filing and recommend that an acknowledgement letter be sent. With this filing, CenturyTel of Oregon and CenturyTel of Eastern Oregon dba CenturyLink (CenturyTel) proposes to increase Local Directory Assistance and National Directory Assistance rates.

Issue

Whether the rate changes proposed by CenturyTel should be allowed to become effective for service rendered on and after March 26, 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.

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

Pursuant to Section 4.k of the Price Plan, monthly rates for residential Other Services, including Local and National Directory Assistance, 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.

Analysis

This filing was submitted on March 22, 2021, with a proposed effective date of March 26, 2021, in compliance with the filing requirements stated in CenturyTel's Price Plan. The rate changes proposed with the present filing are summarized below.

Local and National Directory Assistance

CenturyTel's proposed changes to its Local and National Directory Assistance rates are summarized in the table below.

Service	Pre-Plan Rate	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Current Year \$ Change	Current Year % Change	Cumulative Plan % Change
Local Directory Assistance	\$1.50	\$3.25	\$4.25	\$1.00	30.77%	183.33%
National Directory Assistance	\$2.25	\$4.25	\$5.25	\$1.00	23.53%	133.33%

The 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 CenturyTel's Price Plan.

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

Conclusion

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