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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

ARB 371

In the Matter of WESTERN RADIO SERVICES CO.,)	
INC.'s Request for an Inquiry to Determine Whether)	
CENTURYTEL OF OREGON, INC.'s Exemption as)	ORDER
a Rural Telephone Company under)	
47 U.S.C. 252(f)(1)(B) should be Terminated.)	

DISPOSITION: REQUEST FOR INQUIRY WITHDRAWN;
DOCKET CLOSED.

On September 19, 2001, Western Radio Services Co., Inc., (Western Radio) filed a letter asking the Commission to investigate whether the rural carrier exemption, provided under Section 251(f)(1)(A) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Act), should be terminated for CenturyTel of Oregon, Inc. (CenturyTel). The exemption excuses rural telephone companies from complying with certain obligations imposed by the Act on incumbent local exchange carriers. Western Radio seeks termination of the exemption to assist its request for interconnection and network elements pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 252(f)(1)(B).

On November 13, 2001, Michael Grant, an Administrative Law Judge with the Commission, held a prehearing conference in this matter. Richard Oberdorfer, authorized representative, appeared on behalf of Western Radio. Calvin Simshaw, attorney, appeared on behalf of CenturyTel. Michael Weirich, Assistance Attorney General, appeared on behalf of the Commission Staff.

After discussions off the record, Western Radio clarified that its request of CenturyTel is limited to interconnection facilities for the purposes of connecting networks and exchanging traffic, as well as access to numbers under a Type 1 wireless agreement. In response, CenturyTel indicated that, under its interpretation of the Act, it could not assert the rural exemption in connection with providing those services to Western Radio. Based on these statements, Western Radio agreed to withdraw its request in this docket and proceed with negotiating a carrier-to-carrier agreement with CenturyTel. Accordingly, this docket should be closed.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that docket ARB 371, initiated to determine whether Centurytel of Oregon, Inc.'s exemption as a rural telephone company under 47 U.S.C. 252(f)(1)(B) should be terminated, is closed.

Made, entered, and effective _____.

Roy Hemmingway
Chairman

Lee Beyer
Commissioner

Joan H. Smith
Commissioner

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order pursuant to ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-014-0095. A copy of any such request must also be served on each party to the proceeding as provided by OAR 860-013-0070(2). A party may appeal this order to a court pursuant to applicable law.