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FCC Mailroom

September 21, 2016

**Via Electronic Filing and Overnight Mail**

Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Karen Majcher  
Vice President, High Cost & Low Income Division  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036  
E-Mail: [hccerts@usac.org](mailto:hccerts@usac.org)

**Re: CC Docket No. 96-45/WC Docket No. 10-90, Annual State  
Certification of Support for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers  
Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314**

**New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' Annual Certification for United  
Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink**

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

On December 18, 2015, pursuant to an Order dated November 20, 2012 by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") in Docket No. TO12090874, United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink ("CenturyLink") filed with the Board a semi-annual report on its use of Universal Service Support ("USS") funds.

On June 30, 2016, pursuant to Section 254 (e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act"), 47 U.S.C. §§ 151 *et seq.*, and 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, CenturyLink filed a verified petition with the Board requesting that a certification be filed with the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") and with the Administrator of the Universal Service Fund of the FCC (the "Administrator"), that CenturyLink's use of USS funds under the federal high cost support program within New Jersey has been, is, and will be consistent with the purposes for which such funds may be used according to federal law.

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The FCC's rule at 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(a) requires that, in order for CenturyLink to receive federal high cost USS funds, the state must file an annual certification with the FCC and with the Administrator that all federal high cost support provided to CenturyLink within New Jersey will be used only for provision, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(d), the USS certification must be filed with the Administrator and the FCC by October 1, 2016 in order for CenturyLink to received its full allocation of funds under the requirements imposed by the FCC.

Consistent with prior petitions filed with the Board regarding the use of USS funds, CenturyLink has filed the following information:

- Semi-annual report with Cost Support Response Form for 2015 and supporting schedules of CenturyLink prepared as of December 9, 2015, including schedules for 2015 pro forma and 2016 projected funds.
- Cost Support Response Form and supporting schedules as of June 30, 2016, including 2016 pro forma and 2017 projected funds.
- Affidavit of David Cole, Executive Vice President of Operations Support and Controller, certifying that funds received by CenturyLink in the preceding calendar year (2016), and those funds which will be received in the coming year (2017), have been and will be used for the purposes intended under the Act.
- An annual report filing of FCC Form 481, Carrier Annual Reporting, in support of CenturyLink's certification requirements for 2016 as required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.313.
- Proof of the Newspaper publication on notice of this filing.

Staff having reviewed the petition and the information submitted in support thereof, and given that no one has objected to CenturyLink's continued use of federal USS funds, hereby certifies that CenturyLink used and will use the federal USS funds it receives during 2016 and 2017 for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which such support is intended, as required by section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and 47 C.F.R. § 54.101 et seq.

Because state certification is now required on an annual basis, and in order to ensure continued use of USS funds in a manner consistent with federal law, Staff requests CenturyLink continue to follow Board directives to submit to the Board, no later than July 1st and January 1st of each year, a report, in a manner and format to be determined by Staff, providing auditable information sufficient to determine CenturyLink's compliance with the FCC's required uses of USS funds.

Staff therefore files this Letter of Approval and Certification with both the Office of the Secretary of the FCC and the Administrator to serve as compliance with the certification requirements as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.314.

Should you have any questions regarding this Certification, please contact me. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawanda R. Gilbert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Lawanda R. Gilbert, Director  
Office of Cable Television and  
Telecommunications

LRG/tc