

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of )  
 )  
Section 63.71 Application of )  
 )  
CenturyLink, Inc. f/k/a CenturyTel, Inc. )  
 )  
For Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of )  
the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, )  
to Discontinue the Provision of Service )

ACCEPTED/FILED

AUG 26 2014

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

**SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION**

CenturyLink, Inc. f/k/a CenturyTel, Inc. (CenturyLink) hereby applies for authority pursuant to Section 63.71 of the Federal Communications Commission's (Commission) rules, 47 C.F.R. § 63.71, and Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214, to discontinue its Frame Relay (CenturyTel Frame Relay) and Asynchronous Transfer Mode (CenturyTel ATM) services throughout its service area. This Application is a component of CenturyLink's ongoing initiative to retire all of its Frame Relay and ATM services and transition affected customers to more current and capable technologies.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Concurrent with this Application, CenturyLink is filing an application to discontinue the Frame Relay and ATM services provided by its Embarq affiliate. *See In the Matter of Section 63.71 Application of Embarq Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink, Inc. for Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, To Discontinue the Provision of Service, Section 63.71 Application* (filed Aug. 26, 2014). Last year, CenturyLink filed a similar application for its Qwest Communications Company affiliate. *See In the Matter of Section 63.71 Application of Qwest Communications Company LLC d/b/a CenturyLink QCC for Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, To Discontinue the Provision of Service, WC Docket 13-266, Section 63.71 Application* (filed Oct. 31, 2013). That application remains pending. *See Application of Qwest Communications Company LLC d/b/a CenturyLink QCC To Discontinue Domestic Telecommunications Services Not Automatically Granted, WC Docket No. 13-266, Public Notice* (rel. Dec. 13, 2013). In the future, CenturyLink intends to file an application to discontinue the Frame Relay and ATM services provided by its Qwest Corporation affiliate.

CenturyLink is a dominant provider of CenturyTel Frame Relay and CenturyTel ATM services. CenturyLink submits the following information in support of its application:

**1. Name and address of carrier**

CenturyLink  
100 CenturyLink Drive  
Monroe, Louisiana 71203

**2. Date of planned service discontinuance**

As of December 31, 2014, or as soon thereafter as the necessary regulatory approvals can be obtained, CenturyLink will no longer offer these services to new customers or accept new orders from existing customers (except to the extent such orders are permitted by contract).

Existing customers of these services will be grandfathered as follows:

- Existing contracts for these services will not be renewed.
- Customers with a contract that expires *prior to December 31, 2014* may retain their CenturyTel Frame Relay and/or CenturyTel ATM service covered by that contract on a month-to-month basis until December 31, 2014.
- Customers with a contract that expires *after December 31, 2014* may retain their CenturyTel Frame Relay and/or CenturyTel ATM service covered by that contract until the expiration of that contract.

**3. Points of geographic areas of service affected**

CenturyLink seeks authority to discontinue the provision of CenturyTel Frame Relay and CenturyTel ATM services in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

**4. Brief description of the type of services affected**

CenturyTel Frame Relay Service is a connection-oriented packet-switched data service allowing for the interconnection of Local Area Networks (LAN) or other compatible customer equipment. CenturyTel ATM Service is a connection-oriented multiplexing and switching service based on ATM cell-based switching technology. This service uses fixed-length cells to support transmission of multiple types of traffic (such as data, voice and video) over a LAN or Wide Area Network (WAN).

In 2011, CenturyLink was advised by equipment manufacturer Alcatel-Lucent that the equipment used for CenturyTel Frame Relay and CenturyTel ATM services would no longer be manufactured as of December 31, 2011 and that all support would be discontinued as of December 31, 2014.

As a result of their merger, CenturyTel, Inc and Embarq, Inc. merged and consolidated their billing systems into one system, housing information for all of the predecessor companies' Frame Relay and ATM customers. CenturyLink currently has approximately 1000 customers purchasing CenturyTel and Embarq Frame Relay and ATM services, but the consolidated billing system for these services does not track customers by their pre-merger affiliate name. This Application therefore identifies the total number of Frame Relay and ATM customers served by these two CenturyLink affiliates. However, because the affiliates are subject to different regulation – for CenturyTel, dominant regulation, and, for Embarq, non-dominant regulation – CenturyLink has filed separate applications to discontinue those affiliates' Frame Relay and ATM services.

Current customers have the option of moving to alternative CenturyLink services, such as IQ Networking Private Port Service, which uses the latest technology to create a robust VPN

service, IQ Public Service, Metro Ethernet or Private Line services. Customers can also turn to numerous other providers of similar services.

**5. Brief description of the dates and methods of notice to all affected customers**

On February 5, 2014, CenturyLink notified its customers by U.S. Mail of its plans for discontinuing its CenturyTel Frame Relay and CenturyTel ATM services. (See Attachment A.)

On August 18, 2014, CenturyLink sent these customers official notice of this planned discontinuance by U.S. Mail. (See Attachment B.)

**6. Dominance of carrier with respect to the service to be discontinued**

CenturyLink is a dominant carrier with regard to the services to be discontinued.

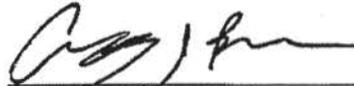
**7. Service**

In accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 63.71(a), CenturyLink has mailed a copy of this application to the Governor and public utility commission of each affected state identified in Paragraph 3 above, as well as to the Special Assistant for Telecommunications under the Secretary of Defense.

Respectfully submitted,

**CENTURYLINK**

By:



Craig J. Brown  
CenturyLink, Inc.  
1099 New York Avenue, NW  
Suite 250  
Washington, DC 20001  
Phone 303-992-2503  
[Craig.J.Brown@CenturyLink.com](mailto:Craig.J.Brown@CenturyLink.com)  
Its attorney

**DATE:** August 26, 2014

100 CenturyLink Drive  
Monroe, LA 71203



Date

NAME  
ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE ZIP

Dear <Customer Name>,

At CenturyLink, our goal is to provide you with great quality and value while still remaining competitive. Changing market conditions require that we continually evaluate our prices, product offerings and infrastructure.

Occasionally our evaluation directs us to make changes to some products; therefore, we are writing to inform you of CenturyLink's plan to grandfather, and ultimately discontinue, its interstate and intrastate Frame Relay and Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) services offered by its CenturyTel, Embarq, and Qwest Corporation affiliates as the equipment used to deliver these services has been discontinued by the manufacturer. We want to give you advance notice so you have the opportunity to plan with us for the upcoming changes.

Later this year, after required regulatory notification and filings, these Frame Relay and ATM services will no longer be available to new customers or for new orders from existing customers (except to the extent permitted by contract). Existing customers of these services will be grandfathered as follows:

- Existing contracts for these services will not be renewed.
- Customers with a contract that expires *prior to December 31, 2014* may retain their Frame Relay and/or ATM service covered by that contract on a month-to-month basis until December 31, 2014.
- Customers with a contract that expires *after December 31, 2014, including option periods*, may retain their Frame Relay and/or ATM service covered by that contract until the expiration of the base contract and all option periods.

We encourage you to contact your account team to discuss alternatives to Frame Relay and ATM Service, such as CenturyLink's IQ Networking Private Port Service, which uses the latest technology to create a robust VPN service.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact your CenturyLink Service Manager or Sales Representative. Thank you for choosing CenturyLink for your communication needs—we value you as our customer.

Date

NAME  
ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE ZIP

Dear <Customer Name>,

In February of 2014, CenturyLink communicated to you our intent to discontinue interstate and intrastate Frame Relay and Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) services offered by its CenturyTel and Embarq affiliates as the equipment used to deliver these services has been discontinued by the manufacturer. At that time, we advised you that our plan was to submit the required regulatory notification and filings later in 2014. We are now moving forward with those regulatory filings and are sending you this notice as required.

As of December 31, 2014, or as soon after that date as authorized by the Federal Communications Commission and relevant state regulatory commissions, the Frame Relay and ATM services offered by CenturyLink's CenturyTel and Embarq affiliates will no longer be available to new customers or for new orders from existing customers (except to the extent permitted by contract). Existing customers of these services will be grandfathered as follows:

- Existing contracts for these services will not be renewed.
- Customers with a contract that expires *prior to December 31, 2014* may retain their Frame Relay and/or ATM service covered by that contract on a month-to-month basis until December 31, 2014.
- Customers with a contract that expires *after December 31, 2014* may retain their Frame Relay and/or ATM service covered by that contract until the expiration of that contract.

At CenturyLink, our goal is to provide you with great quality and value while still remaining competitive. Changing market conditions require that we continually evaluate our prices, product offerings and infrastructure.

If you have not done so already, we encourage you to contact your account team to discuss alternatives to Frame Relay and ATM Service, such as CenturyLink IQ® Networking Private Port Service, which uses the latest technology to create a robust VPN service.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact your CenturyLink Service Manager or Sales Representative. Thank you for choosing CenturyLink for your communication needs—we value you as our customer.

**For Legacy CenturyTel customers:**

**The following statement is required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC):**

The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service (or reduction or impairment) unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. Address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the Sec. 63.71 Application of CenturyLink. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance (or reduction or impairment) upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

**For Legacy Embarq customers:**

**The following statement is required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC):**

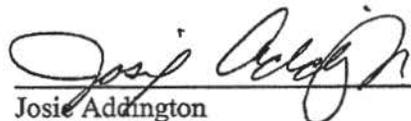
The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service (or reduction or impairment) unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 15 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. Address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the Sec. 63.71 Application of CenturyLink. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance (or reduction or impairment) upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Josie Addington, do hereby certify that I have caused the foregoing **SECTION 63.71**

**APPLICATION** to be:

- 1) Filed with the Secretary of the FCC via courier (original and five copies plus one for stamp and return);
- 2) Served, via U.S. Mail on the Governors of the states, territories and commonwealths listed on the attached service list;
- 3) Served, via U.S. Mail, on the Public Utility Commissions listed on the attached service list; and
- 4) Served via U.S. Mail on the Special Assistant for Telecommunications under the Secretary of Defense.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Josie Addington

Date: August 26, 2014

## SERVICE LIST

The Honorable Robert J. Bentley  
Office of the Governor  
600 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Alabama Public Service Commission  
Suite 850  
100 North Union Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

The Honorable Janice K. Brewer  
Office of the Governor  
Executive Tower  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Mike Beebe  
Office of the Governor  
Room 250  
State Capitol  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Arkansas Public Service Commission  
100 Center Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201-4314

The Honorable John W. Hickenlooper  
Office of the Governor  
136 State Capitol  
Denver, CO 80203-1792

Colorado Public Utilities Commission  
Suite 250  
1560 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80202

The Honorable Nathan Deal  
Office of the Governor  
203 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Georgia Public Service Commission  
244 Washington Street  
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
POB 83720  
Boise, ID 83720

Idaho Public Utilities Commission  
POB 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0074

## SERVICE LIST

The Honorable Pat Quinn  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Illinois Commerce Commission  
Suite C-800  
160 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, IL 60601

The Honorable Michael R. Pence  
Office of the Governor  
200 W. Washington Street  
Room 206  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Indiana Utility Regulatory  
Commission  
PNC Center  
Suite 1500 E  
101 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The Honorable Terry Branstad  
Office of the Governor  
1007 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Iowa Utilities Board  
Room 69  
1375 East Court Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0069

The Honorable Bobby Jindal  
Office of the Governor  
POB 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Louisiana Public Service Commission  
POB 91154  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9154

The Honorable Rick Snyder  
Officer of the Governor  
POB 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909

Michigan Public Service Commission  
POB 30221  
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Mark Dayton  
Office of the Governor  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota Public Utilities  
Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East  
Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

## SERVICE LIST

The Honorable Phil Bryant  
Office of the Governor  
POB 139  
Jackson, MS 39205

Mississippi Public Service  
Commission  
501 North West Street  
Woolfolk State Office Building  
Jackson, MS 39201-1174

The Honorable Jay Nixon  
Office of the Governor  
POB 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Missouri Public Service Commission  
POB 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

The Honorable Steve Bullock  
Office of the Governor  
POB 200801  
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Montana Public Service Commission  
POB 202601  
Helena, MT 59620-2601

The Honorable Brian Sandoval  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Public Utilities Commission of Nevada  
1150 E. William Street  
Carson City, NV 89701-3109

The Honorable Susana Martinez  
Office of the Governor  
Room 400  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

New Mexico Public Regulation  
Commission  
1120 Paseo de Peralta  
Santa Fe, NM 87501-1269

The Honorable John R. Kasich  
Office of the Governor  
Riffe Center, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

## SERVICE LIST

The Honorable John Kitzhaber  
Office of the Governor  
900 Court Street, NE  
Suite 160  
Salem, OR 97301

Public Utility Commission of Oregon  
550 Capitol Street, NE  
Suite 215  
Salem, OR 97308-1088

The Honorable Bill Haslam  
Office of the Governor  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
State Capitol  
Nashville, TN 37243

Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243

The Honorable Rick Perry  
Office of the Governor  
POB 12428  
Austin, TX 78711-2428

Public Utility Commission of Texas  
POB 13326  
Austin, TX 78711-3326

The Honorable Gary Herbert  
Office of the Governor  
Utah State Capitol Complex, Suite 200  
350 North State Street  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2220

Public Service Commission of Utah  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
160 East 300 South  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
POB 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

WA UTC  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

The Honorable Scott Walker  
Office of the Governor  
115 East Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Public Service Commission of  
Wisconsin  
610 North Whitney Way  
Madison, WI 53705-2729

## SERVICE LIST

The Honorable Matt Mead  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
200 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0010

Wyoming Public Service Commission  
Hansen Building  
2515 Warren Avenue  
Suite 300  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Secretary of Defense  
**Attn.: Special Assistant for  
Telecommunications**  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000