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August 8, 2003

By Electronic Filing

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication in CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Secretary Dortch:

On Thursday, August 7, 2003, John F. Jones, Vice President, Federal Government Relations, of CenturyTel, Inc. ("CenturyTel"), and Richard R. Cameron and I, both of Latham & Watkins, met with the following individuals concerning the Commission's above-referenced proceeding:

Office of Commissioner Abernathy: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy and Matthew Brill, Senior Legal Advisor

Office of Commissioner Adelstein: Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein, Scott Bergmann, Legal Advisor, and Jessica Rhea, Intern

In the meeting, CenturyTel responded to the July 16, 2003 *ex parte* presentation of Western Wireless in this docket. We distributed copies of the letter that accompanies this notice and discussed the arguments contained therein.

Please direct any questions concerning this matter to me.

Very truly yours,



Karen Brinkmann

Enclosure

cc: Hon. Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Hon. Jonathan S. Adelstein,
Matthew Brill
Scott Bergmann
Jessica Rhea