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LATHAM & WATKINS^{LLP}

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BY ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Re: Ex Parte Presentation in Dockets CC 96-45 and WC 03-266

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Yesterday Karen Puckett and John Jones of CenturyTel, Inc., and I spoke with Chairman Powell and Aaron Goldberger concerning the above-captioned proceedings. Specifically, CenturyTel urged that the Commission should adopt meaningful, enforceable standards for designation of eligible telecommunications standards under Section 214(e) of the Communications Act. CenturyTel discussed the points set forth in its comments and testimony in CC docket 96-45, and summarized in the attached materials, which were provided at the meeting. In addition, CenturyTel urged that the Commission should deny Level 3's petition in WC docket 03-266.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Karen Brinkmann

cc: Honorable Michael Powell, Chairman
Aaron Goldberger, Acting Legal Advisor to the Chairman