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May 17, 2007

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: RM-11293; WC Docket 05-337 – Notice of Ex Parte Presentation

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, May 15, 2007, Glen Post and John Jones of CenturyTel, Inc., and I met with Chairman Martin, Commissioner McDowell, Commissioner Tate, Nick Alexander, Ian Dillner, and Angela Giancarlo, to discuss the above-captioned proceedings. David Wilson of New Frontiers Communications Consulting also joined the meeting with Chairman Martin and Ian Dillner. In these meetings, CenturyTel discussed its progress in diversifying its business and providing advanced services to rural America, the challenges and opportunities inherent in bringing broadband to rural communities, and the importance of the Commission's policies on universal service and pole attachments to achieving broadband parity in rural areas.

CenturyTel expressed support for meaningful reforms to the universal service high-cost support system, to stabilize funding for the long-term benefit of rural America. CenturyTel praised the Recommended Decision of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service in docket 05-337. CenturyTel noted the need for changes in policy with respect to competitive eligible telecommunications carriers (CETCs), and reiterated its long-held views that the designation of numerous CETCs in a market, and the awarding of support without cost justification under the "same support" rule, create perverse incentives that ultimately are detrimental to universal service. In addition, the elements of the Joint Board's Further Notice in WC docket 05-337 were discussed. The substance of CenturyTel's points is set forth in greater detail in its comments and *ex partes* filed previously in dockets 05-337 and 96-45. CenturyTel also noted it intends to file comments in response to the Further Notice.

In addition, CenturyTel expressed support for the pending petition for rulemaking (RM-11293) to amend the Commission's pole attachments rate regulations and complaint procedures. CenturyTel described its experience with unreasonable rate discrimination by electric utilities, and discussed how excessive pole attachment charges hinder deployment of

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broadband fiber facilities as well as Wi-Fi technology in rural areas. CenturyTel urged that the Commission commence a rulemaking proceeding to address these issues and work toward greater parity among competing service providers using the same poles. CenturyTel's February 21st *ex parte* filing in that proceeding and CenturyTel's comments in support of the petition for rulemaking set forth the substance of the discussion in greater detail.

Please direct any questions concerning this matter to me.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Karen Brinkmann

Counsel to CenturyTel, Inc.

cc: Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner
Nicholas Alexander, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Tate
Ian Dillner, Legal Advisor to Chairman Martin
Angela Giancarlo, Legal Advisor to Commissioner McDowell
Thomas Navin, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau