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August 7, 2008

EX PARTE PRESENTATION

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

Re: WC Docket No. 07-245; CC Docket No. 01-92; WC Docket No. 04-36; WC Docket No. 05-337; CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is to inform you that on August 6, 2008, Jeffrey S. Glover, Vice President – External Relations, and Gary Maxwell Cox, both of CenturyTel, Inc. (“CenturyTel”), and I met with Scott Bergmann, Senior Legal Advisor, Wireline Issues, to Commissioner Adelstein, in the above-referenced dockets.

CenturyTel urged the Commission to adopt a unified pole attachment rate for all providers, including for ILECs, for the reasons stated in its pleadings filed in WC Docket No. 07-245. CenturyTel supports making a distinction between rural and urban pole attachment rates as described in the US Telecom Association ex parte letter of July 24, 2008, filed in this same docket.

CenturyTel described the urgent need for the FCC to adopt rules regarding “phantom traffic” along the lines advocated by the US Telecom Association in its ex parte letter dated February 12, 2008, filed in CC Docket No. 01-92. CenturyTel has suffered a marked decline in intrastate access revenues during the last few years because carriers are masking the true nature of traffic in a variety of ways. CenturyTel indicated that this situation is harming rural ratepayers. A solution would provide a building block for adopting further intercarrier compensation reform.

Other aspects of intercarrier compensation are also in urgent need of an FCC decision. The FCC should declare that VoIP providers owe access charges pursuant to the FCC’s rulemaking in WC Docket No. 04-36. In addition, the FCC should

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continue to employ its current rules for ISP-bound traffic because dial-up Internet access continues to exist in rural areas, and is in fact growing in some areas.

Finally, CenturyTel urged the FCC to adopt a new contribution mechanism for collecting universal service funds based on telephone numbers or connections, along the lines that it has taken in its comments filed in WC Docket No. 05-337.

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, please include this ex parte filing in the above-referenced docket.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gregory J. Vogt

Gregory J. Vogt
Counsel for CenturyTel, Inc.

cc: Scott Bergmann