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October 2, 2009

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**EX PARTE NOTICE**

*Re: A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51; High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92.*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of CenturyLink, Jeff Glover (by phone), David Zesiger (by phone), and I met with Robert Curtis, Rebecca Goodheart, Tom Koustky, and Carol Matthey of the Commission team working on the National Broadband Plan on October 1, 2009. We discussed CenturyLink's advocacy regarding universal service and intercarrier compensation over the past two years, including the reform proposals filed last year in the above-captioned dockets by the Independent Telephone and Telecommunications Alliance (ITTA). We also discussed CenturyLink's experiences with the economics of delivering service in areas with low population densities. In particular, we discussed the erosion of the various support mechanisms that have facilitated the universal availability of affordable, high-quality telecommunications services comparable to those available at comparable rates in higher-density areas. The discussion was consistent with the filings made by CenturyTel and Embarq in the above-captioned dockets, and was facilitated by the three exhibits filed with this letter.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, one copy of this electronic notice is being filed in each of the above-referenced dockets. Please contact me if you have any questions or need anything else.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S Lanning  
Director – Federal Regulatory Affairs

cc: Robert Curtis  
Rebecca Goodheart  
Thomas Koustky  
Carol Matthey