

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska	)	Application No. NUSF-139
Public Service Commission, on its	)	Progression Order No. 3
own Motion, to consider	)	
appropriate modifications to the	)	
high-cost distribution and	)	ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR
reporting mechanisms in its	)	EXTENSION OF TIME
Universal Service Fund program in	)	
light of federal and state	)	
infrastructure grants.	)	Entered: August 14, 2024

BY THE HEARING OFFICER:

O P I N I O N      A N D      F I N D I N G S

By Motion filed on August 7, 2024, Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC and United Telephone Company of the West d/b/a CenturyLink (collectively referred to as "CenturyLink") seeks an extension of time to file its Pre-filed Direct Testimony and Exhibits in the above-captioned docket. Pursuant to the Commission's Order entered July 9, 2024, Pre-filed Direct Testimony and Exhibits in response to the Commission Staff's proposal were due on or before August 6, 2024. Rebuttal Testimony and Exhibits are due on or before August 20, 2024. CenturyLink missed the August 6, 2024 deadline, and requests an extension of time to August 15, 2024 to submit Direct Testimony and Exhibits in response to the Commission Staff's proposal.

In support of its Motion, CenturyLink states good cause supports an extension of time due to administrative changes within CenturyLink including the retirement of Mr. Lubeck. Counsel for CenturyLink was also undergoing a change in law firms.

Having reviewed CenturyLink's Motion, and the reasons stated therein, I am not persuaded that good cause exists for granting an extension of time to CenturyLink to file its Pre-filed Direct Testimony and Exhibits on August 15, 2024 as requested. The Commission's deadlines have been established since its July 9, 2024 Order. The circumstances described by CenturyLink to justify its request for an extension of time were not unanticipated events, or events outside of CenturyLink's control. Further, the procedural schedule is in place for the submission of rebuttal testimony which is due only five days after CenturyLink's proposed direct testimony extension date. I find adjustments to the procedural schedule could jeopardize the Commission's desire to have a transitional high-cost distribution mechanism in place for

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2025. Accordingly, I find CenturyLink's Motion seeking an extension of time should be denied. While the request for an extension to file Pre-filed Direct Testimony and Exhibits is denied, CenturyLink retains the ability to submit Rebuttal Testimony and Exhibits by the existing deadline of August 20, 2024.

## O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Hearing Officer in the above-captioned matter, that CenturyLink's Motion for an extension of time to file Pre-filed Direct Testimony and Exhibits is hereby denied.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 14th day of August, 2024.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

By:



Tim Schram

Hearing Officer