

ITEM NO. CA2

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: September 19, 2006**

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE October 1, 2006

DATE: September 6, 2006

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: David Sloan

THROUGH: Lee Sparling, Phil Nyegaard, and Lance Ball

SUBJECT: CENTURYTEL OF OREGON INC: (Advice No. 269) Introduces a new offering, N11 Abbreviated Dialing Codes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the filing be allowed to go into effect.

DISCUSSION:

CenturyTel of Oregon Inc (CenturyTel) filed Advice No. 269 on August 16, 2006, proposing changes to its tariff PUC OR. No. 5. The filing introduces a new service known as N11 Abbreviated Dialing Codes. The effective date is October 1, 2006.

Abbreviated dialing codes enable callers to connect to a location in the phone network that otherwise would be accessible only via a seven or ten-digit telephone number. The company pre-programs the network to translate the three-digit code into the appropriate seven or ten-digit telephone number (generally referred to as a "pointer") and routes the call accordingly.

The following N11 abbreviated dialing codes were assigned for specific uses by FCC decisions issued in CC Docket 92-105:

- 211 – Community Information and Referral Services
- 311 – Non-Emergency Governmental Services
- 511 – Traffic and Transportation Information
- 711 – Telecommunications Relay Service
- 811 – One-Call Notification Systems

The filing introduces the abbreviated dialing codes into the company's tariff.

- 211 Service is a three-digit local dialing arrangement available in specified areas for the delivery of community information and referral services via voice grade facilities.
- 311 Service is a three-digit local dialing arrangement available in specified areas for the delivery of non-emergency local government services via voice grade facilities.
- 511 Service is a three-digit local dialing arrangement available in specified areas for the delivery of travel information services via voice grade facilities.
- 711 Service is a three-digit local dialing arrangement for telephone transmission access to all Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) entities as a toll free call.
- 811 Service is a three-digit local dialing arrangement available in specified areas used for access to One Call systems via voice grade facilities. Pursuant to Order 05-59, issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in CC Docket 92-105, the 811 code is established as the national abbreviated dialing code to be used by state One Call notification systems in order to provide a means for excavators and the general public to notify underground facility operators in advance of their intent to engage in excavation activities in compliance with the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (the Pipeline Safety Act).

The company will provide only the delivery of the calls. The entity that has been granted authorization to use the N11 abbreviated dialing code will be responsible for providing any announcements and services to the callers. Also, the N11 subscriber must subscribe to adequate telephone facilities initially and subsequently as may be required for CenturyTel to adequately handle calls to N11 without impairing the company's general telephone service or telephone plant.

The nonrecurring charge (NRC) for initial setup – programming the network to translate an abbreviated dialing code to a seven or ten digit number – is \$300. The NRC for subsequently changing a pointer is \$50. There are no monthly recurring charges associated with the service.¹

¹ For comparison, Qwest Corporation's charge is \$300 for initial setup, \$30 per switch for activation, and, for 811 only, a \$0.01 per call routed.

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 759.190 requires the company to give a 30-day notice to the Public Utility Commission for any change made to its tariff schedules. The company's analysis, showing that the proposed rates exceed the company's costs of providing the service, is reasonable. A comparison shows that CenturyTel's proposed rates are generally equal to, or higher than, Qwest's rates for the same service.²

The filing is not contrary to the public interest.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

CenturyTel of Oregon Inc's Advice No. 269 be allowed to go into effect for service rendered on or after October 1, 2006.

² CenturyTel has not filed cost studies with the Commission. In dockets UM 351 and UM 844, the Commission held that, in the absence of a completed cost study for a telecommunications utility other than Quest, the imputed price floor established for Qwest will apply.