

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Joint Application of)	
Embarq Corporation and Century Tel, Inc. for)	
Approval of Transfer of Control of United)	Case No. 08-1267-TP-ACO
Telephone Company of Ohio, United)	
Telephone Company of Indiana, Inc., and)	
Embarq Communications, Inc.)	

RESPONSE OF EMBARQ CORPORATION AND CENTURYTEL, INC. TO STAFF
DATA REQUESTS

1. Referring to Page 45 of Joint Application it states “. . . that the two companies do not serve any of the same markets in Ohio.” Does Embarq Communications as an IXC, offer services in CenturyTel’s local markets? Please clarify this statement with respect to each of the subsidiaries.

Response:

Embarq Communications Inc. as an IXC does not market its long distance services to customers that reside in CenturyTel’s Ohio service area. A very limited number of business customers (currently 10 customers) who purchase local service from Embarq in its Ohio service territory have chosen to subscribe to Embarq’s long distance service (provided through Embarq Communications Inc.) for their business locations that are within CenturyTel’s Ohio service territory.

CenturyTel Long Distance as an IXC does not market long distance service outside of the CenturyTel ILEC service territory. Although CenturyTel Long Distance service is available to specific areas outside of the CenturyTel ILEC service territory, including to one Embarq Exchange (Lebanon), CenturyTel Long Distance does not currently provide service to any customers in that Embarq exchange.

2. Referring to Barry Counts testimony at page 55, he states that there will be “no immediate effect” on the organization and operations of the Embarq Ohio

subsidiaries. Please provide clarification as to what is meant by “no immediate effect”?

Response:

The intent of Mr. Counts' testimony was to show that the organization and operations of the Embarq Ohio subsidiaries would be the same the day after the close of the merger as they were the day before close. Since Mr. Counts filed his testimony, functional teams have been formed to begin the planning, analysis, and decision-making process to integrate the employees, systems, and operations of the companies. Consistent with Mr. Bailey's testimony where, at page 45, he stated that Post-Merger CenturyTel would be able to adopt best practices from both companies, the CenturyTel customer billing and customer care system, Ensemble, has been identified as a "best practice," and Ohio has been selected as the initial location to transition Embarq customers to that system. We are developing a comprehensive integration process and are working to make sure that the system conversion has been tested and is both fully operational and compliant with all state regulations prior to completing the conversion. The first conversion involves approximately 450,000 customers and is targeted for July 3. Converted EMBARQ customers will retain their current products and pricing. Ohio customers should see no noticeable change as a result of Embarq and CenturyTel's advanced integration efforts. Embarq and CenturyTel are committed to keeping customers and the Commission informed as the conversion progresses. This billing system change is for retail customers and will not affect wholesale customers (CLECs) of Embarq. Neither company will seek recovery from Ohio ratepayers in a future proceeding of the expenses associated with the conversion to the Ensemble billing system.

3. Referring to Barry Counts testimony at pages 56, 57, he states that the Embarq Ohio subsidiaries... will be the “largest independent wireline communications company in the United States.” Please provide clarification as to what is meant by being the “largest” independent in the United States?

Response:

The intent of Mr. Counts' testimony was to say that Post Merger CenturyTel, not the Embarq Ohio subsidiaries, would be the largest independent (not affiliated with an RBOC) wireline communications company in the United States. The reference to "largest," means it would serve the largest total number of local exchange access lines. The new combined company will have approximately 8 million customers, making it the fourth largest local exchange company in America, following AT&T, Verizon, and Qwest.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true copy of the foregoing response was served via hand delivery or first class mail postage prepaid this 12th day of February 2009 to the persons listed below.

/s/

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Summary: Response of Embarq Corporation and CenturyTel, Inc. to Staff Data Requests electronically filed by Gary Baki on behalf of Embarq Corporation and Century Tel, Inc.