

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 10, 2015

NEWS RELEASE

Commission Unanimously Approves Money-Saving Promotion for CenturyLink's Business Customers

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC) unanimously approved two motions granting provisions of a promotion sought by CenturyLink to offer lower prices to businesses operating in the state.

In May 2014, the Commission unanimously approved a similar promotion reducing residential rates by the same company, as pointed out by Commissioner Patrick Lyons on Wednesday, November 4.

“Essentially what we have here is the same identical case. CenturyLink wants to offer our businesses a cheaper rate; they wanted to offer residents cheaper rates before...,” Commissioner Lyons stated, adding that he hoped the present Commission would provide the same consideration for New Mexico businesses that was provided for residents in the state in 2014, and approve the promotion. “It’s tough out there in the business community, and if they are being offered a way to save money, I don’t think we should stand in the way of that.”

Next, Commissioner Lyons suggested a change in the language of the order proposed by staff, reversing staff’s recommendation to deny the protective order sought by CenturyLink, and proposed the company file the protective order by Friday, November 6, rather than next month.

Commissioner Sandy Jones commented on the importance of protective orders to guard trade practices that protect regulated companies and also allow customers to benefit from lower pricing.

The full Commission voted to approve the motion to change the language of the order.

Following lengthy discussion to eliminate a paragraph containing language that made it sound as if the Commission would be approving the suspension of this promotion rather than granting it, the Commission again unanimously voted to allow the promotion, striking the entire paragraph from the order.

“I want to remind customers that, while a price reduction saves money, it’s only during the promotional period, and it’s important to know exactly what they’re signing up for, and committing and especially agreeing to,” Commissioner Valerie Espinoza stated after Wednesday’s vote. “I recommend that consumers always read the terms and conditions in the fine print. It’s essential to know that a rate reduction is very alluring, attractive and indeed saves money, but in most instances, it’s only for three to 12 months, and consumers may find themselves bound to a contract over a period of up to three years.”

About the NMPRC

The NMPRC regulates public utilities, telecommunications companies and motor carriers operating in the State of New Mexico. It also administers the State Fire Marshal’s Office, the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy in Socorro, N.M., and the Pipeline Safety Bureau.

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