

What's the Latest on the Century Link/Qwest Proposed Acquisition?

An acquisition between CenturyLink and Qwest Communications is in the works. CWA has raised a number of questions about the impact on jobs, investment and communities. CWA has met with management of both Qwest and CenturyLink; those discussions will continue and CWA works to resolve specific issues.

Here's what's important in this deal

Jobs and Quality Service

We want to make sure that this deal works for communities and workers, not just Wall Street. All too often, terms like "synergies" mean job cuts, pay cuts or both. In initial documents, CenturyLink said it plans to find \$625 million in "synergies." We want to guarantee that those synergies do not mean job cuts or less investment.

Investment

We want to be certain that the CenturyLink/Qwest deal does more than acknowledge the need for investment in high speed broadband. Our jobs depend on the expansion of high speed internet and we seek specific commitments to meet the goals that the Federal Communications Commission has outlined in its new

national broadband plan, especially service to rural and other underserved communities.

Workers' Rights

Workers need to know that their rights will be respected in any new company. The majority of us have contracts and the ability to bargain around our wages, benefits and working conditions. We seek to ensure those rights throughout the corporation. Although CenturyLink has a decentralized management structure for operations, the corporation is controlled by a single group of management. We need an equally united and strong organization to voice our issues and views.

Who is CWA?

CWA represents about 15,000 workers at Qwest in 13 states, from Iowa and Minnesota in the Midwest to the Rocky Mountain states to the Pacific Northwest and Arizona and New Mexico in the Southwest. It's a big territory. We also represent about 3,700 workers at CenturyLink, including CenturyTel workers and those from the former Embarq, with much of the company's operations in rural communities now in 33 states.



Workers, investors, customers and management all have a stake in what happens at CenturyLink. CWA has worked to win protections for workers at other companies involved in merger and acquisition deals, like Embarq-CenturyTel, Verizon-Frontier, Verizon-Fairpoint and more. Through these discussions, we have been able to guarantee greater security for workers and service quality guarantees for consumers.

What We're Doing Right Now

- CWA will meet again with management on June 24.
- CWA has filed a petition with the public service commissions in four states to intervene in this proposed acquisition and to testify before state regulators. The states are Iowa, Colorado, Minnesota and Arizona.
- We know that unity is the key, and CWA stands ready to work with all stakeholders to build a future for all of us at CenturyLink.

Keep up with the latest news at <http://www.cwa-union.org>

Questions?
Email news@cwa-union.org.