



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, D.C. 20554

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COMMENTS INVITED ON APPLICATION OF CENTURLINK TO DISCONTINUE DOMESTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

WC Docket No. 13-211
Comp. Pol. File No. 1120

Comments Due: September 30, 2013

Section 214 Application **Applicant: CenturyLink**

On August 12, 2013, CenturyLink (CenturyLink or Applicant), located at **100 CenturyLink Drive, Monroe, LA 71203**, filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) requesting authority, under section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214, and section 63.71 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 63.71, to discontinue certain domestic telecommunications services in Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington and Wyoming (collectively, Service Areas).¹

CenturyLink indicates that it currently offers NetPoint in the Service Areas. According to CenturyLink, NetPoint is an Integrated Service Digital Network-Primary Rate Interface (ISDN-PRI) standardized access product offering, supported by the ISDN architecture and offered as an optional feature with CenturyLink's DS1 services.² CenturyLink explains that NetPoint provides for the integration of multiple transmission channels on the same line. The Applicant states, however, that it plans to discontinue NetPoint in the Service Areas on November 1, 2013, or as soon thereafter as the necessary regulatory approvals can be obtained. CenturyLink submits that on or after that date it will grandfather existing NetPoint deployments. Specifically, CenturyLink explains that the NetPoint feature will be maintained on the circuits on which it is deployed as of the discontinuance date, but that customers will no longer be able to order NetPoint for new circuits. CenturyLink further clarifies that it is grandfathering only the NetPoint feature and not the DS1 services with which it is associated, and that is not discontinuing DS1 Service or ISDN-PRI Service. CenturyLink states that it currently provides NetPoint to just five customers that purchase a total of 25 circuits. CenturyLink indicates that it sent written notice of the proposed discontinuance to all of its NetPoint customers by U.S. Mail dated August 6, 2013. The Applicant asserts that it is considered dominant with respect to the service to be discontinued, reduced or impaired.

¹ The Competition Policy Division of the Wireline Competition Bureau subsequently received the filed application on August 19, 2013.

² CenturyLink states that NetPoint is currently found in sections 7.2.8(D)(8), 7.5.8(C)(6) and 22.5.8(C) of CenturyLink Operating Companies FCC Tariff No. 9 (pages 7-57-7-64, 7-301-7-303, 22-96, 22-98).

In accordance with section 63.71(c) of the Commission's rules, CenturyLink's application will be deemed to be granted automatically on the 60th day after the release date of this public notice, unless the Commission notifies CenturyLink that the grant will not be automatically effective. In its application, CenturyLink indicates that it plans to grandfather the NetPoint feature for existing circuits and discontinue offering NetPoint for new circuits in the Service Areas on November 1, 2013, or as soon thereafter as the necessary regulatory approvals can be obtained. Accordingly, pursuant to section 63.71(c) and the terms of CenturyLink's application, absent further Commission action, CenturyLink may discontinue NetPoint in the Service Areas on or after **November 1, 2013**, in accordance with CenturyLink's filed representations. The Commission normally will authorize proposed discontinuances of service unless it is shown that customers or other end users would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier, or that the public convenience and necessity would be otherwise adversely affected.

Comments objecting to this application must be filed with the Commission on or before **September 30, 2013**. Such comments should refer to **WC Docket No. 13-211 and Comp. Pol. File No. 1120**. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance on the commenter, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. *See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121 (1998). Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/>. Filers should follow the instructions provided on the Web site for submitting comments. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. In completing the transmittal screen, filers should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number.

Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission. All hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A325, Washington, D.C. 20554. The filing hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes and boxes must be disposed of before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Two copies of the comments should also be sent to the Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room 5-C140, Washington, D.C. 20554, Attention: Carmell Weathers. In addition, comments should be served upon the Applicant. Commenters are also requested to fax their comments to the FCC at (202) 418-1413, Attention: Carmell Weathers.

This proceeding is considered a "permit but disclose" proceeding for purposes of the Commission's *ex parte* rules.³ Persons making *ex parte* presentations must file a copy of any written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200 *et seq.*

persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the *ex parte* presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter's written comments, memoranda or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during *ex parte* meetings are deemed to be written *ex parte* presentations and must be filed consistent with rule 1.1206(b). In proceedings governed by rule 1.49(f) or for which the Commission has made available a method of electronic filing, written *ex parte* presentations and memoranda summarizing oral *ex parte* presentations, and all attachments thereto, must be filed through the electronic comment filing system available for that proceeding, and must be filed in their native format (*e.g.*, .doc, .xml, .ppt, searchable .pdf). Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.

People with Disabilities: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (tty).

For further information, contact Carmell Weathers, (202) 418-2325 (voice), carmell.weathers@fcc.gov, or Kimberly Jackson, (202) 418-7393 (voice), kimberly.jackson@fcc.gov, of the Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau. The tty number is (202) 418-0484. For further information on procedures regarding section 214 please visit http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/cpd/other_adjud.

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