



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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DA 16-484
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**WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU SEEKS COMMENT ON A PETITION FILED
BY THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION FOR AGREEMENT IN
REDEFINING THE SERVICE AREA OF A RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANY
IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

CC Docket No. 96-45

Comment Date: June 3, 2016

Reply Comment Date: June 17, 2016

The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) seeks comment on a petition filed on April 21, 2016, by the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC),¹ pursuant to section 54.207 of the Commission's rules.² Specifically, NCUC seeks the Commission's agreement with the NCUC's redefinition of certain Central Telephone Company wire centers as a separate service area or areas, specifically, the wire centers associated with the exchanges of Elkin, Hays, Mulberry, North Wilkesboro, and State Road, North Carolina.³

Section 54.207 of the Commission's rules, which implements section 214(e)(5) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the Act), provides that a rural telephone company's service area will be its study area "unless and until the Commission and the states, after taking into account the recommendations of a Federal-State Joint Board instituted under section 410(c) of the Act, establish a different definition of service area for such company."⁴

This public notice is required by section 54.207(c)(2) of the Commission's rules.⁵ If the Commission initiates a proceeding to consider the Petition, it must do so within 90 days of the release

¹ Petition by the North Carolina Utilities Commission, Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.207(c), for the Federal Communications Commission's Agreement in Redefining the Rural Telephone Company Service Area of Central Telephone Company d/b/a CenturyLink, CC Docket No. 96-45, <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/comment/view?id=60001638151> (filed Apr. 21, 2016) (Petition).

² 47 C.F.R. § 54.207.

³ See Petition at 2.

⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 54.207(b); 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(5).

⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 54.207(c)(2).

date of this public notice, pursuant to the Commission's rules.⁶ If the Commission does not act on the Petition by **August 2, 2016**, the definition proposed by the NCUC will be deemed approved by the Commission and shall take effect in accordance with state procedures.⁷

Pursuant to sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, interested parties may file comments on or before the dates indicated above.⁸ All pleadings are to reference **CC Docket No. 96-45**. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), or by filing paper copies.⁹

- Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>.
- Paper Filers: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, filers must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number.

Filings may 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 St., SW, Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. The filing hours are 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, SW, Washington DC 20554.

In addition, one copy of each pleading must be sent to each of the following:

- (1) Deborah A. Dupont, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, 445 12th Street, SW, Room 2-A125, Washington, DC 20554; e-mail: Deborah.Dupont@fcc.gov.
- (2) Charles Tyler, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, 445 12th Street, SW, Room 5-A452, Washington, DC 20554; e-mail: Charles.Tyler@fcc.gov.

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).

Availability of Documents. Comments, reply comments, and *ex parte* submissions will be publically available online via ECFS.¹⁰ These documents will also be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Information Center, which is located in Room CY-

⁶ 47 C.F.R. § 54.207(c)(3).

⁷ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.207(c)(3)(ii).

⁸ 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415, 1.419.

⁹ See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, GC Docket No. 97-113, Report and Order, 13 FCC Rcd 11322 (1998).

¹⁰ Documents will generally be available electronically in ASCII, Microsoft Word, and/or Adobe Acrobat.

A257 at FCC Headquarters, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554. The Reference Information Center is open to the public Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The proceeding this Notice initiates shall be treated as a “permit-but-disclose” proceeding in accordance with the Commission’s *ex parte* rules.¹¹ 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 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.

For further information, please contact Deborah A. Dupont, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-7400 or TTY (202) 418-0484.

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¹¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200 *et seq.*