

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Telephone Number Portability)	CC Docket No. 95-116
)	
Numbering Resource Optimization)	CC Docket No. 99-200

ORDER

Adopted: August 2, 2018

Released: August 2, 2018

By the Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In this Order, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) grants CenturyLink’s request¹ for an extension of the waiver of the Commission’s numbering rules, issued by the Bureau on September 21, 2017.² Due to the extensive damage in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) caused by Hurricane Maria,³ the Bureau concludes that it is in the public interest to extend the waiver to allow CenturyLink additional time to restore services to its customers in the USVI. Therefore, we find that good cause exists to grant a six-month waiver extension.

2. On September 21, 2017, the Bureau, on its own motion, issued a waiver relating to carriers porting numbers to locations outside hurricane-affected rate centers in the USVI until June 20, 2018.⁴ Our action was necessitated by the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria on the telecommunications infrastructure in the USVI.⁵ In that Order, the Bureau stated that carriers could request additional relief if they are unable to resume normal service by that date.⁶ On June 19, 2018, Sprint filed a request to extend the waiver because it stated that it was still unable to resume normal service in the USVI⁷ and the

¹ Request for Waiver, CC Docket Nos. 95-116, 99-200 (filed July 20, 2018), <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filing/107200693101990> (CenturyLink Waiver Extension Request).

² See generally *Telephone Number Portability et al.*, Order, 32 FCC Rcd 7005 (WCB 2017) (*September 2017 Waiver Order*).

³ See, e.g., Nat’l Oceanographic & Atmospheric Admin., National Hurricane Center Tropical Cyclone Report – Hurricane Maria 6-8 (2018), https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/tcr/AL152017_Maria.pdf; Virgin Islands; Major Disaster and Related Determinations, 82 Fed. Reg. 46,813-14 (Oct. 06, 2017), <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2017-21632>.

⁴ *September 2017 Waiver Order*, 32 FCC Rcd at 7006, para. 2.

⁵ *Id.* at para. 1.

⁶ *Id.* at para. 2 (“If service providers are unable to resume service on a normal basis after this period, they may request additional relief from the Wireline Competition Bureau.”)

⁷ Request of Sprint for Extension of Waiver, CC Docket No. 95-116 et al. (filed June 19, 2018), <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filing/1061994393791> (Sprint Waiver Extension Request).

Commission granted a six-month extension.⁸ On July 20, 2018, CenturyLink filed a similar request to extend the waiver because it states that it also is unable to resume normal service in the USVI.⁹

3. In support of its request, CenturyLink reports that it has been working with the incumbent service provider to establish necessary connections, but it has not been successful.¹⁰ In addition, CenturyLink states that it seeks to implement a work-around similar to Sprint, which involves routing calls via Florida. According to CenturyLink, this work-around will obviate the need for the incumbent to create additional infrastructure in the USVI to establish service for CenturyLink when the incumbent's limited resources are focused on restoration efforts.¹¹

4. Section 1.3 of the Commission's rules provides that "[a]ny provision of the rules may be waived by the Commission on its own motion or on petition if good cause therefore is shown."¹² We find that there is good cause to extend the waiver for CenturyLink for six months. Despite its efforts thus far in the USVI, "CenturyLink is dependent on other parties to establish new trunk groups to support its service, and the local incumbent has not done so."¹³ CenturyLink states that the establishment of its voice and broadband services in the USVI will provide end users another option for reliable and feature-rich services.¹⁴ CenturyLink also maintains that "a limited, six-month waiver will mitigate the current hardship being experienced and provide benefits to the USVI."¹⁵ CenturyLink states that this waiver will enable it to provide service to USVI while the incumbent continues to focus on restoration efforts.¹⁶ We find that these assertions justify granting the requested extension. Notwithstanding this waiver, we exhort CenturyLink to expeditiously resolve this issue, and notify the Commission upon completion.

5. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to sections 4(i), 251(b)(2), and 251(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 251(b)(2) and 251(e), and sections 0.291 and 1.3 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.291, 1.3, that CenturyLink's Request for Waiver IS GRANTED, and the relief described in the *September 2017 Waiver Order* is extended until February 1, 2019.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Kris Anne Monteith
Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau

⁸ *In the Matter of Telephone Number Portability; Numbering Resource Optimization*, CC Docket Nos. 95-116, 99-200, Order, DA 18-653 (WCB June 22, 2018), 2018 WL 3121173.

⁹ See CenturyLink Waiver Extension Request.

¹⁰ CenturyLink Waiver Extension Request at 3.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² 47 CFR § 1.3.

¹³ CenturyLink Waiver Extension Request at 4.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id.*