



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>

WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU COPPER RETIREMENT NETWORK CHANGE NOTIFICATION FILED BY MERRIMACK COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY

WC Docket No. 23-173
Report No. NCD-3691

May 25, 2023

Re: COPPER RETIREMENT NETWORK CHANGE CERTIFICATION RECEIVED

Merrimack County Telephone Company (Merrimack County Telephone), an incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC), has filed certification that public notice of network change(s) involving the retirement of copper has been provided through its publicly accessible Internet site, as required by section 51.329(a)(2) of the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission),¹ together with certification of service on identified interconnecting telephone exchange service providers, as required by section 51.333(a).² Upon initial review the revised filing appears to be complete.³ Specific network change information can be obtained on the Internet at:
<https://tdstelecom.com/carrierservices/public-notice/2023.html>.

The incumbent LEC's certification(s) refer(s) to the change(s) identified below:

Copper Retirement ID	Type of Change(s)	Location of Change(s)	Originally Planned Implementation Date(s)
TDS Public Notice 2023-13 Merrimack County Telephone Company	Merrimack County Telephone plans to retire a number of copper facilities associated with locations in certain digital service area(s) (DSA) and replace them with fiber facilities it has deployed to provide services over its existing fiber-to-the-home network infrastructure.	The following locations in New Hampshire: DSA 63452 in Deering, NH (CLLI: HLBNH52); DSA 63416 in Henniker & Hillsboro(ugh), NH (CLLI: HLBNH16); DSA 63351 in Hopkinton, NH (CLLI: CNTCNH51) & at facilities associated with the locations served in these DSAs listed in Exhibit A of Merrimack County Telephone's notice.	On or after August 15, 2023

¹ See 47 CFR § 51.329(a)(2).

² See 47 CFR § 51.333(a).

³ See 47 CFR §§ 51.325 through 51.335. On May 18, 2023, Merrimack County Telephone amended its filing to provide a copy of its revised Public Notice of Copper Retirement Under Rule 51.333, and to correct a CLLI code and more accurately reflect some of the location information listed in Exhibit A to the notice. Counsel for Merrimack County Telephone has confirmed with Commission staff that the online notice for this network change has been updated on the company website.

Incumbent LEC contact:
Pam Trickel
Regulatory Compliance Sr. Administrator
TDS Telecommunications Corporation
525 Junction Rd.
Madison, WI 53717
(608) 664-7872

An objection to an incumbent LEC's copper retirement notice may be filed by an information service provider or telecommunications service provider that directly interconnects with the incumbent LEC's network. Such objections must be filed with the Commission, and served on the incumbent LEC, no later than the ninth business day following the release of this Public Notice.⁴ The effective implementation date(s) of network changes referenced in standard copper retirement notices are subject to the FCC public notice periods described under section 51.333(b)(2).⁵ For purposes of computation of time when filing a petition for reconsideration, application for review, or petition for judicial review of the Commission's decision, the date of "public notice" shall be the later of 90 days after the release date of this Public Notice, or the release date of any further public notice or order announcing final action, as applicable. Should no petitions for reconsideration, applications for review, or petitions for judicial review be timely filed, the proceeding listed in this Public Notice shall be terminated, and the docket will be closed.

Information service providers and telecommunications service providers that directly interconnect with the incumbent LEC's network may file objections, and other interested parties may file comments, regarding this network change notice using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs>. 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 number. Interested parties also may comment on this network change notice by sending an e-mail to NetworkChange@fcc.gov. The subject line of the e-mail must include the correct NCD Report Number or docket number in order for the comments to be considered in conjunction with this proceeding. All information submitted including names and addresses will be publicly available via the web.

Parties who choose to file paper copies must file an original and one copy of each filing. Such filings can be sent by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail.⁶ All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail

⁴ See 47 CFR § 51.333(c).

⁵ See 47 CFR § 51.333(b)(2). In the absence of filed objections, a notice of copper retirement usually will be deemed final on the 90th day after the release of the Commission's public notice of the filing pursuant to section 51.333(b)(2). However, notice of copper retirement involving facilities that are not being used to provision services to any customers, usually will be deemed final on the 15th day after the release of the Commission's public notice of the filing. *Id.*

⁶ Effective March 19, 2020, and until further notice, the Commission no longer accepts any hand or messenger delivered filings. This is a temporary measure taken to help protect the health and safety of individuals, and to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19. See *FCC Announces Closure of FCC Headquarters Open Window and Change in Hand-Delivery Filing*, Public Notice, 35 FCC Rcd 2788 (OMD 2020), <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-closes-headquarters-open-window-and-changes-hand-delivery-policy>.

and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701. U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 45 L Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20554.

This proceeding is considered a “permit but disclose” proceeding for purposes of the Commission’s *ex parte* rules.⁷ Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission’s *ex parte* rules. 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).

People with Disabilities: We ask that requests for accommodations be made as soon as possible in order to allow the agency to satisfy such requests whenever possible. Send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530.

For further information, please contact Rodney McDonald at (202) 418-7513, email: Rodney.McDonald@fcc.gov or Carmell Weathers at (202) 418-2325, email: Carmell.Weathers@fcc.gov, in the Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau.

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⁷ 47 CFR § 1.1200 *et seq.*