

FCC Proposed Technology Transitions Rule Changes (NPRM WC 17-84)

Copper Retirement

Incumbent local exchange carrier must give advance notice to customers when it retires copper network and replaces it with a more advanced wireline technology. Example: copper to fiber upgrade

	Current Rule (2015 Technology Transitions Order)	Proposed Change (FCC NPRM WC 17-84)
Advance Notice to Retail Customers	90 days	None required
Advance Notice to Interconnecting Carriers	180 days	90 days
<i>De facto</i> Copper Retirement	Prohibits copper abandonment through neglect	Allows copper abandonment through neglect
Advance notice to users of terminal equipment (TTYs for deaf/hard of hearing)	Yes	NPRM asks: should we drop this requirement?
Emergency (e.g. storm-related)	Allows waivers	No waiver required

Service Discontinuance (Section 214)

Section 214(a): "No carrier shall discontinue, reduce, or impair service to a community, or part of a community, unless and until there shall first have been obtained from the Commission a certificate that neither the present nor future public convenience and necessity will be adversely affected thereby." Example: landline to wireless (e.g. VoiceLink in Fire Island)

	Current Rule (2016 Service Discontinuance Order; 2014 Decl Ruling)	Proposed Change (FCC NPRM WC 17-84)
Definition of "service"	Functional test (<i>will community continue to have same functionality of services?</i>)	Tariff or service agreement only
Adequate Replacement Test	Objective criteria: 1. Quality voice service 2. Access to 911, service for people w/ disabilities 3. Interoperable w/ fax, home security, medical monitoring	Eliminates adequate replacement test
Time Frame	31 days streamlined approval w/ 15-day public comment. FCC can remove application from streamlined approval	25 days w/ 10 day comment period for "grandfathered" low-speed legacy services