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January 16, 2015

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Section 63.71 Application of Business Telecom, LLC d/b/a EarthLink Business to Discontinue the Provision of Service

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Business Telecom, LLC d/b/a EarthLink Business submits the enclosed Application for Authority under Section 214(a) of the Communications Act and Section 63.71 of the Commission's Rules to discontinue service in specified geographic areas in North Carolina.

Please direct questions concerning this Transmittal to me at the contact information below.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Paula Foley

Paula Foley
Senior Counsel
EarthLink
225 Cedar Hill Street, Suite 111
Marlborough, MA 01752
(781) 362-5713
pfoley@elink.com

Enclosure

cc: North Carolina Utilities Commission
North Carolina Office of the Governor
Secretary of Defense, Attn. Special Assistant for Telecommunications

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Section 63.71 Application of)	
)	File No.
Business Telecom, LLC d/b/a)	
EarthLink Business)	
)	
For Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of)	
The Communications Act, As Amended,)	
To Discontinue the Provision of Service)	
In Specified Geographic Areas)	

**SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION OF BUSINESS TELECOM, LLC D/B/A EARTHLINK
BUSINESS**

Business Telecom, LLC d/b/a EarthLink Business (“BTI”) respectfully applies for authority under Section 214(a) of the Communications Act, as amended (“the Act”), 47 U.S.C. § 214, and Section 63.71 of the Federal Communications Commission’s (“Commission”) rules, 47 C.F.R. § 63.71, to discontinue the provision of service in specified geographic areas.

As required by Section 63.71(a) and (b) of the Commission’s rules, BTI provides the following information:

Name and Address of Carrier (47 C.F.R. 63.71(a)(1), (b)(2)):

Business Telecom, LLC d/b/a EarthLink Business
2851 Charlevoix Drive SE, Ste. 209
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Date of Planned Service Discontinuance (47 C.F.R. § 63.71(a)(2), (b)(2)):

BTI plans to discontinue offering service in specified geographic areas on or after March 1, 2015, pending regulatory approval.

Points of Geographic Areas of Service Affected (47 C.F.R. § 63.71(a)(3), (b)(2)):

BTI will no longer offer services in the Wakefield development in Wake County, North Carolina (“Wakefield”) and the Meadowmont development outside of Chapel Hill, North Carolina (“Meadowmont”).

Brief Description of Service Affected (47 C.F.R. § 63.71(a)(3), (b)(2)):

Using its own copper facilities, BTI currently offers local exchange, exchange access, and long distance services to certain business and residents of Wakefield and Meadowmont. The proposed discontinuance of service results from a business decision by BTI to decommission the existing copper facilities serving these customers due to increased costs associated with maintenance of the aging copper facilities. The proposed discontinuance of service will impact 43 customers in Wakefield and 5 customers in Meadowmont.

Brief Description of the Dates and Methods of Notice to All Affected Customers (47 C.F.R. § 63.7(b)(3)):

On December 1, 2014, BTI gave written notification to the 48 affected customers as provided in Exhibit A, three months prior to the cessation of service date. On January 15, 2015, BTI gave further written notice to the affected customers as provided in Exhibit B, 45 days prior to the cessation of service date. BTI also intend to contact the remaining affected customers by telephone prior to the cessation of service.

Regulatory Classification of Carrier (47 C.F.R. § 63.71(b)(4)):

BTI offers services in Wakefield and Meadowmont pursuant to non-dominant carrier regulation. Questions about this application may be addressed to Paula Foley, Senior Counsel, EarthLink, 225 Cedar Hill Street, Suite 111, Marlborough, MA 01752, (781) 362-5713.

Conclusion:

The public convenience and necessity will not be adversely affected by the discontinuance of service by BTI in Wakefield and Meadowmont because BTI will cooperate with other telecommunications providers in the affected areas to ensure that the services of current customers are not interrupted. On information and belief, the affected customers will have competitive alternatives for the provision of comparable telecommunications services, including from cable companies, competitive local exchange carriers, incumbent local exchange carriers, and wireless providers. BTI will provide ample notice to affected customers to afford those customers the opportunity to make arrangements with an alternative service provider. Therefore, BTI respectfully requests that the Commission approve its Section 63.71 application to discontinue service in the specified geographic areas.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/Paula Foley

Paula Foley
Senior Counsel
EarthLink
225 Cedar Hill Street, Suite 111,
Marlborough, MA 01752

Its Attorney

January 16, 2015



**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING SERVICE DISCONTINUANCE
YOUR ACTION IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO MARCH 1, 2015**

December 1, 2014

<Customer Name Contact>

<Address>

RE: Discontinuance of EarthLink services.

Dear <First Name Last Name>:

I'm writing to inform you that, regretfully, on March 1, 2015, we will no longer be able to provide the EarthLink services you use at the following location(s):

Acct #: <TBD>

Acct Name: <TBD>

Address: <TBD>

Current/Discontinued Service: <TBD>

You will have ninety (90) days from the date of this notice (until March 1, 2015) to transition to a new service provider before your EarthLink service will be disconnected. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience.

On December 1, 2014, Earthlink filed a petition with the N.C. Utilities Commission seeking permission to discontinue providing intrastate local exchange, exchange access, and long distance telecommunications services in your area.

In addition, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible but no later than 15 days after the FCC releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. Address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the § 63.71 Application of Business Telecom, LLC d/b/a EarthLink Business. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.



EXHIBIT A

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Please feel free to speak with an EarthLink Customer Care representative at 1-800-239-3000 to discuss the service change.

Respectfully,
EarthLink Customer Care



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**IMPORTANT REMINDER NOTICE REGARDING SERVICE DISCONTINUANCE
YOUR ACTION IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO MARCH 1, 2015**

January 15, 2015

<Customer Name Contact>

<Address>

RE: Reminder Notice of Discontinuance of EarthLink services.

Dear <First Name Last Name>:

As we indicated in our December 1, 2014 Notice of Discontinuance to you, on March 1, 2015, we will no longer be able to provide the EarthLink services you use at the following location(s):

Acct #: <TBD>

Acct Name: <TBD>

Address: <TBD>

Current/Discontinued Service: <TBD>

As we indicated in the December 1st Notice, you will have a total of ninety (90) days (until March 1, 2015) to transition to a new service provider before your EarthLink service will be disconnected. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience.

On December 1, 2014, Earthlink filed a petition with the N.C. Utilities Commission seeking permission to discontinue providing intrastate local exchange, exchange access, and long distance telecommunications services in your area.

In addition, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible but no later than 15 days after the FCC releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. Address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the § 63.71 Application of Business Telecom, LLC d/b/a EarthLink Business. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.



EXHIBIT B

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Please feel free to speak with an EarthLink Customer Care representative at 1-800-239-3000 to discuss the service change.

Respectfully,
EarthLink Customer Care



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Paula Foley, certify that I have, on January 16, 2015, served a copy of the foregoing
Section 63.71 Application of Business Telecom, LLC d/b/a EarthLink Business by U.S.

Mail postage prepaid to the addresses below:

/s/Paula Foley
Paula Foley

North Carolina Utilities Commission
430 North Salisbury Street
Dobbs Building
Raleigh, NC 27603-5918

Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Secretary of Defense
Attn: Special Assistant for Telecommunications
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301