

Attachment 1.

CWA Ex Parte Meeting on *Wireline Transitions*

GN Docket No. 13-5, PS Docket No. 14-174, RM-11358, WC Docket No. 05-25, RM-10593

June 22, 2015

1. The Commission should move forward expeditiously to establish rules on back-up power, copper retirement, and service discontinuance.
2. These policies will facilitate transition to high-speed networks, consistent with FCC policy to protect consumers, public safety, universal service, and competition.
3. CWA proposals¹
 - a. Back-up Power. Minimum 8 hours, moving to 24 hours
 - b. Network Change Notification/Copper Retirement. Differentiate between an upgrade (to fiber) and a downgrade (to wireless or fixed wireless). Require adequate notice and comment period for retail and wholesale customers.
 - c. Section 214 Service discontinuance. Criteria:
 - i. Reliable and accurate access to E911
 - ii. Constant availability
 - iii. Adequate call quality
 - iv. Compatibility with health and safety devices that use the network
 - v. Adequate data transmission capability
 - vi. Affordable to consumers
 - d. See also criteria in *Voice Link* (2013) and *Southwestern Bell Dark Fiber* (1993)
 - i. Voice Link: reasonable substitute available; need for the service and facilities; existence, availability, and adequacy of alternatives; increased charges for alternatives; public interest
 - ii. Southwestern Bell: financial impact on carrier; need for the service and facilities; existence, availability and adequate of alternatives; increased charges for alternative services

¹ See CWA Comments, GN Docket No. 13-5, PS Docket No. 14-174, RM-11358, WC Docket No. 05-25, RM-10593, Feb. 5, 2015; CWA Reply Comments, same dockets, March 9, 2015.

4. CWA, Public Interest Commentators, AARP, and state Commissions in NY and PA have provided powerful evidence of “de facto” service discontinuance in violation of FCC’s rules.² Consumers need rules to file complaints against these practices. CWA evidence in the record includes
 - a. Verizon inadequate investment in maintenance and repair of copper facilities
 - b. Verizon long delays in service restoration and repair
 - c. Verizon inadequate staffing to maintain and repair copper facilities
 - d. State deregulation policies do not adequately protect copper customers

5. Additional evidence
 - a. NY City Audit: Verizon failure to meet its obligation to deploy FiOS throughout New York City by end of 2014 (Attachment)
 - b. *Wall Street Journal* article: “Verizon Union Says Company Is Not Fixing Landline Telephones” (Attachment)

² See Comments of AARP; Public Knowledge, Common Cause, National Consumer Law Center, TURN, et al; Comments of the Appalachian Regional Commission; Comments of the New York Public Service Commission; Comments of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, GN Docket No. 13-5, PS Docket No. 14-174, RM-11358, WC Docket No. 05-25, RM-10593, Feb. 5, 2015.