

July 29, 2015

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Over the past couple of months, WorldNet Telecommunications, Inc. (“WorldNet”) has submitted a number of written filings and met with a number of Commission staff to discuss the proposed amendments that the Commission proposed to its copper retirement rules in the Commission’s November 2014 NPRM. Our advocacy has told the Commission that in order to preserve competition in Puerto Rico, a unique market facing documented financial challenges unrivaled by any other jurisdiction in the country, the Commission must (1) provide for some kind of review and approval mechanism by the Commission and/or state commission for ILEC copper retirement proposals and (2) expressly provide the some form of continued access by competitors to last mile facilities, through continued unbundling obligations and/or a required sale of retired copper facilities to competitors in a process providing a backstop of state commission review akin to that established in the 1996 Act for establishing other interconnection arrangements between ILECs and CLECs. Of critical importance, among all of these, is the need for Commission clarity to ensure (as Windstream has more expansively articulated) that UNE obligations do not disappear simply because an ILEC has chosen to replace copper with fiber.

Two weeks ago, Commissioner Wheeler released a fact sheet outlining the basic terms of a proposed order with regard to these issues. The fact sheet appears to fail to mention any of the rule amendments urged by WorldNet in its prior advocacy in this proceeding. . This is not in the best interest of competition, and consumers, interests that the Commission has committed to protect.

WorldNet highlights one key issue. The Commission’s fact sheet appears to be silent on the options available to competitors if and when copper facilities are retired. As many have noted in this proceeding, ILECs have inappropriately called into question standing Commission rules requiring nondiscriminatory and/or unbundled access to voice grade (i.e., DS0), DS1, and DS3 fiber loops and subloops. The stakes involved in taking away a critical component of competitor

networks are simply too great not to expressly and unequivocally confirm these basic requirements as part of the Commission's ultimate resolution with regard to its copper retirement rules. And, at the very least, the Commission should leave to state commissions the option to protect their own local markets by establishing their own requirements with regard to affording competitors continued last mile access in the face of ILEC copper retirements.

Again, as WorldNet has already told the Commission, at the end of the day, WorldNet has no interest in creating undue barriers to the deployment of new technologies and transmission mediums that will create value for Puerto Ricans. Indeed, WorldNet has been at the forefront of these efforts in Puerto Rico. WorldNet urges the Commission to re-balance these consideration by adopting (at least for Puerto Rico) modest protections that will give providers like WorldNet the opportunity to preserve one of the best things that the Puerto Rico economy and Puerto Rico consumers have going for them – competitive telecommunications options. Accordingly, WorldNet respectfully requests that the Commission give full and due consideration to these proposals at this critical juncture in Puerto Rico's history.

Respectfully submitted,



David Bogaty
Founder and President

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