

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

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
CenturyLink	)	WC Docket No. 07-244
Petition for Waiver of Deadline	)	CC Docket No. 95-116
_____	)	

**SPRINT NEXTEL COMMENTS**

Sprint Nextel Corporation (“Sprint”) opposes the petition for waiver filed by CenturyLink in which CenturyLink seeks to avoid the August 2, 2010 deadline for implementation of one business-day number porting.<sup>1</sup> CenturyLink seeks a rather lengthy waiver of the number portability deadline – until May 1, 2011. Sprint notes that this proposed implementation date is eight months after the original deadline and three months beyond the deadline established for small entities.

**I. WAIVER OF THE NUMBER PORTABILITY DEADLINE WILL HARM THE PUBLIC INTEREST**

CenturyLink argues that the August 2, 2010 deadline is “unduly burdensome” because it is undergoing the integration of CenturyTel and Embarq operating systems as part of its merger.<sup>2</sup> CenturyLink states that the “public interest” will be harmed should CenturyLink be required to meet the August 2010 deadline because resulting system changes would be a “misuse of [com-

---

<sup>1</sup> CenturyLink Petition for Waiver of Deadline, WC Docket No. 07-244, CC Docket No. 95-116 (filed June 7, 2010) (“*Petition for Waiver*”).

<sup>2</sup> *Petitioner for Waiver* at pp. 1-2.

pany] resources” and benefits to CenturyLink customers “would be delayed if CenturyLink were required to meet the [deadline].”<sup>3</sup>

CenturyLink’s view of the “public interest” is narrow and self-serving because it considers only the effect that the deadline will have on CenturyLink’s bottom-line. CenturyLink fails to consider that a waiver will harm American consumers who will not be able to take advantage of a quick, efficient and more reliable form of porting as ordered by the Commission. Such a waiver not only harms consumers, but it also affects competition generally and CenturyLink’s competitors specifically.

## **II. THE CENTURYTEL – EMBARQ MERGER DOES NOT PROVIDE CENTURYLINK WITH A “FREE PASS” TO CIRCUMVENT THE NUMBER PORTABILITY DEADLINE**

The CenturyTel and Embarq merger does not provide CenturyLink with a “free pass” to avoid its number portability obligation. Similar to CenturyLink, Sprint has undergone a number of mergers, acquisitions, and consolidations over the years, yet Sprint has not once sought a waiver from the Commission’s number portability rules. Indeed, Sprint’s merger with Nextel involved many of the same obstacles cited by CenturyLink including changes to operating systems, consolidation of billing systems, and the migration of millions of customers across billing platforms. Sprint, therefore, understands fully the complexity of these mergers and their effects on operations. Nevertheless, as a long-time proponent of number portability, Sprint ensured that it met Commission deadlines and took the steps necessary to ensure that it supported number portability. In short, CenturyLink should not be able to rely on “the inconvenient merger” as an excuse from meeting the Commission mandated one business-day porting deadline.

---

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

### III. CENTURLINK HAS HAD AMPLE TIME TO COMPLY WITH THE COMMISSION'S MANDATE

CenturyLink has had ample time to consider the impact of the Commission's *One Day Porting Order* on its combined operations. The CenturyTel and Embarq merger was announced in October 2008.<sup>4</sup> The Commission's *One Day Porting Order* was adopted and released in May 2009.<sup>5</sup> CenturyLink, therefore, had been working on its merged operations for seven months *before* the Commission released its order. In addition to these seven months, the Commission has provided industry 14-plus months to reduce the porting interval to one business-day by August 2, 2010. CenturyLink seeks an additional eight months to comply with the shortened porting interval. This would provide CenturyLink with 22 months from the date of the release of the *One Day Porting Order*. Again, while Sprint is sympathetic to the complexities of merging operations, CenturyLink has had ample time to react to the Commission's deadline and its request for an extension of time is preposterously lengthy.

---

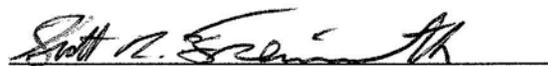
<sup>4</sup> See, Press Release "CenturyTel and EMBARQ Agree to Merge," available at [http://www.centurylink.com/Pages/AboutUs/PressRoom/pressRelease.jsp?page=Corporate/Press\\_Release66.html](http://www.centurylink.com/Pages/AboutUs/PressRoom/pressRelease.jsp?page=Corporate/Press_Release66.html)

<sup>5</sup> Local Number Portability Porting Interval and Validation Requirements, WC Docket No. 07-244, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 24 FCC Rcd 6084, (adopted and released May 13, 2009) ("*One Day Porting Order*".)

### III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, the Commission should deny CenturyLink's petition for waiver and extension of the "one business-day" porting interval deadline.

#### SPRINT NEXTEL CORPORATION



Scott Freiermuth  
Counsel – Government Affairs  
Sprint Nextel Corporation  
6450 Sprint Parkway  
Overland Park, KS 66251  
913-315-8521

June 29, 2010

---