

June 24, 2020

Mr. Will Seuffert  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

**Re: In the Matter of Local Service Providers' Filings Under Minnesota Rules  
7812.0600 and 7811.0600  
Docket Nos. P999/CI-20-359, P6422/M-20-354, P6236/M-20-259**

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Attached is the Response of the Department of Commerce to the Commission's Notice of Supplemental Comment Period, regarding the above-referenced matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ BRUCE L. LINSCHIED  
Financial Analyst

BLL/ja  
Attachment

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Katie Sieben	Chair
Valerie Means	Commissioner
Matt Schuerger	Commissioner
Joseph Sullivan	Commissioner
John Tuma	Commissioner

**In the Matter of Local Service Providers' Filings  
Under Minnesota Rules 7812.0600 and 7811.0600  
Docket Nos. P999/CI-20-359, P6422/M-20-354, P6234/M-20-259**

**COMMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE IN RESPONSE TO THE NOTICE OF  
SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENT PERIOD**

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) files the below response to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (Commission's) May 29, 2020 Notice of Supplemental Comment Period, regarding requests to discontinue regulated voice service by Local Service Providers (LSPs).

**Commission Staff Request:**

- 1) *Should the Commission clarify, or in the alternative vary Minn. R. 7812.0600, subpart 1A and 6 so that a local service provider discontinuing a regulated voice service for business customers:*
- a) need only provide notification to the business customers, not receive affirmative confirmation from each individual customer that they have transitioned service to another provider;
  - b) may provide a notice to the Commission, Department, and Office of Attorney General, and its customers at least 60 days in advance, if it is retaining its authority but discontinuing a regulated voice service for business customers? Should the carrier be allowed to carry out that discontinuance without affirmative approval from the Commission, if no objections or concerns are raised in comments within 60 days?
  - c) need not only identify LSPs available to those customers, but both LSPs and any other unregulated options known to the carrier? (*See the last sentence of Minn. Rules 7812.0600, Limitations on Exit.*)

**Department Response:**

Companies discontinuing services are required to comply with the Commission's rules unless a variance is received. Discontinuance of regulated voice service, whether business or residential, should not occur without the prior approval of the Commission, even if no objections or concerns are raised. As stated in its comments in the above matters, Minn. R. 7812.0600 requires the provision of single party voice-grade service. LSPs should not be permitted to discontinue a basic service requirement, as listed in Minn. R. 7812.0600, without the Commission granting a variance to Minn. R. 7812.0600. If the Commission approves a variance to the rule, it may at that time address the notification required for customers and whether service may be terminated if a customer has not transitioned to another provider.

**Commission Staff Request:**

2) *Should the Commission clarify that the notice to customers required under 7812.0600 subp. 6 shall list contact information for the Consumer Affairs Office?*

**Department Response:**

Commission Rules do not require the notice to customers to include the contact information for the Consumer Affairs Office. However, since any discontinuance of local service requires approval from the Commission, inclusion of the Consumer Affairs Office contact information can be included on the notice to affected customers, by order of the Commission.

**Commission Staff Request:**

3) *Commenters should provide additional information, including but not limited to:*

- a) other state commissions' requirements for discontinuing local regulated voice service to business customers;
- b) whether it is relevant that these services go through an FCC approval process.  
The scope of these questions does not include relinquishment of a carrier's certificate of authority, nor obligations of an ETC.

**Department Response:**

Since the Commission will be determining whether to approve the petition of a company seeking to discontinue local service based on Minnesota Statutes and Commission Rules, the Department does not see the merit to obtain the requirements in other States, unless the Commission is seeking to change its rules. The Department agrees it is appropriate for companies to inform the Commission if it has filed for 214 approval from the FCC for the discontinuance of regulated services that are the subject of a petition before the Commission.

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Sharon Ferguson, hereby certify that I have this day, served copies of the following document on the attached list of persons by electronic filing, certified mail, e-mail, or by depositing a true and correct copy thereof properly enveloped with postage paid in the United States Mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Minnesota Department of Commerce  
Supplemental Comments**

**Docket No. P999/CI-20-359, P6422/M-20-354, and P6236/M-20-259**

Dated this **24<sup>th</sup>** day of **June 2020**

**/s/Sharon Ferguson**

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Dianne	Barthel	Dianne.barthel@centurylink.com	Centurylink Communications, LLC	200 South Fifth Street Room 2200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-259_M-20-259
Linda	Chavez	linda.chavez@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280  Saint Paul, MN 55101-2198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-259_M-20-259
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400  St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_20-259_M-20-259
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_20-259_M-20-259
Andrew	Schriner	andrew.schriner@centurylink.com	Centurylink Communications, LLC	200 South 5th Street Room 2100 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-259_M-20-259
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350  Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_20-259_M-20-259
Jason	Topp	jason.topp@centurylink.com	CenturyLink	200 S 5th St Ste 2200  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-259_M-20-259

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Linda	Chavez	linda.chavez@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280  Saint Paul, MN 55101-2198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-354_M-20-354
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400  St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_20-354_M-20-354
Dan	Craigie	daniel.craigie@state.mn.us	Department of Public Safety	445 Minnesota St. Suite 1725 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-354_M-20-354
David	Denton	david.denton@state.mn.us	DPS ECN	445 Minnesota Street Suite 137 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-354_M-20-354
Pete	Eggimann	PEGGIMANN@MN-MESB.ORG	Metropolitan Emergency Services Board	2099 University Ave W Ste 201  St. Paul, MN 551043431	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-354_M-20-354
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280  Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-354_M-20-354
Carey	Gagnon	carey.gagnon@verizonwireless.com	Verizon Wireless	3131 S Vaughn Way #550 FL 5  Aurora, CO 80014	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-354_M-20-354
Shannon	Heim	shannon.heim@lawmoss.com	Moss & Barnett A Professional Association	150 S. 5th Street, Suite 1200  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-354_M-20-354
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_20-354_M-20-354
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350  Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_20-354_M-20-354

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Dana	Wahlberg	dana.wahlberg@state.mn.us	Department of Public Safety	Town Square Ste 137 444 Cedar St St. Paul, MN 551015126	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-354_M-20-354

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Linda	Chavez	linda.chavez@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280  Saint Paul, MN 55101-2198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-359_Official
Brent	Christensen	bchristensen@mnta.org	Minnesota Telecom Alliance	1000 Westgate Drive, Ste 252  St. Paul, MN 55117	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-359_Official
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400  St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_20-359_Official
Shannon	Heim	shannon.heim@lawmoss.com	Moss & Barnett A Professional Association	150 S. 5th Street, Suite 1200  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-359_Official
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_20-359_Official
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350  Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_20-359_Official
Jason	Topp	jason.topp@centurylink.com	CenturyLink	200 S 5th St Ste 2200  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-359_Official