

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

**In the Matter of the)
Wireline Competition Bureau Copper)
Retirement Network Change Notification) WC Docket No. 21-285
Filed by Lumen Technologies, Inc.)
(CenturyTel of Michigan, Inc./CenturyLink))**

**COMMENTS OF THE
MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

On July 8, 2021, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), issued a Public Notice in regard to a copper retirement network change certification received from Lumen Technologies, Inc. on behalf of CenturyTel of Michigan, Inc. (CenturyLink).¹ The Public Notice allows information service providers and telecommunications service providers that directly interconnect with the incumbent LEC’s network to file any objections, and other interested parties may file comments, regarding this network change notice.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) files these comments in response to the FCC’s Public Notice. Per the schedule established in the Public Notice, comments are due by July 21, 2021.

By way of background, on May 19, 2020, historic flooding and dam failures occurred in the area surrounding Midland, Michigan, which caused some significant infrastructure damage in the region. Among the telephone exchanges in the area

¹ [DOC-373907A1.pdf \(fcc.gov\)](#)

hit hardest and most impacted by this damage was the Hope exchange (Edenville Wire Center) served by CenturyLink. CenturyLink has provided the MPSC Staff (at Staff's request) with periodic updates on their restoration efforts in the impacted area. At the onset of the flooding, CenturyLink reported that it had 120 customers without service. While CenturyLink initially continued to provide updates and worked to restore service, they ultimately informed staff that they no longer had plans to restore service to a relatively small number of customers in a portion of an area of the Hope exchange, citing the high cost of re-establishing service in that area. The MPSC has continued to have ongoing discussions with CenturyLink regarding the service in that area.

The MPSC has concerns that this is not only a copper retirement, but also a discontinuance of service in that area of the Hope exchange. The MPSC has reached out to FCC staff concerning the federal regulatory requirements for this discontinuance and respectfully asks the FCC to withhold approving the Lumen Technologies, Inc. copper retirement network change notification until questions of compliance with federal and state requirements to discontinue service in this area of the Edenville wire center/Hope exchange are resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHIGAN PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

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