**DA 15-271**

**Released: February 27, 2015**

**QUIET PERIOD ANNOUNCED FOR THE CENTURYLINK FORBEARANCE PETITION**

**WC Docket No. 14-9**

**Quiet Period Begins: 11:59 P.M. (EST) on February 27, 2015**

On December 13, 2013, CenturyLink filed a petition pursuant to section 10 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the Act), requesting that the Commission forbear from “dominant carrier regulation and the *Computer Inquiry* tariffing requirement with respect to all of its packet-switched and optical transmission services” that are subject to the regulations.[[1]](#footnote-1) The statutory date on which CenturyLink’s forbearance petition shall be deemed granted, in the absence of Commission action on the petition, is March 13, 2015.[[2]](#footnote-2)

The Commission has implemented procedural rules governing forbearance petitions under section 10 of the Act.[[3]](#footnote-3) Section 1.58 of the Commission’s rules provides for a two-week quiet period before the statutory deadline for Commission action in forbearance proceedings.[[4]](#footnote-4) Section 1.58 extends the prohibition in section 1.1203(a) (governing contacts with decision makers concerning matters listed in the Sunshine Agenda) to petitions for forbearance “for a period of 14 days prior to the statutory deadline.”[[5]](#footnote-5) This public notice announces the beginning of the two-week quiet period.[[6]](#footnote-6) The quiet period for this proceeding begins at 11:59 p.m. (EST) on February 27, 2015.[[7]](#footnote-7) Accordingly, all presentations to decision makers concerning the CenturyLink Petition, whether *ex parte* or not, are prohibited beginning at 11:59 p.m. (EST) on February 27, 2015.[[8]](#footnote-8)

For further information, please contact Alex Johns, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-1167 or TTY (202) 418-0484.

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1. CenturyLink’s Petition for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from Dominant Carrier Regulation and Computer Inquiry Tariffing Requirements on Enterprise Broadband Services, WC Docket No. 14-9 (filed Dec. 13, 2013) (CenturyLink Petition). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act, the Wireline Competition Bureau extended the initial one-year statutory period by an additional 90 days, to March 13, 2015. *Petition of CenturyLink for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from Dominant Carrier and Certain Computer Inquiry Requirements on Enterprise Broadband Services*, WC Docket No. 14-9, Order, 29 FCC Rcd 13746 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2014). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Petition to Establish Procedural Requirements to Govern Proceedings for Forbearance Under Section 10 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,* WC Docket No. 07-267, Report and Order, 24 FCC Rcd 9543 (2009) (*Forbearance Procedures Order*). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 47 C.F.R. § 1.58. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *Forbearance Procedures Order*, 24 FCC Rcdat 9561, para. 33 n.110; 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.58, 1.1203. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *Forbearance Procedures Order,* 24 FCC Rcd at 9560-61, para. 33. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. “Absent unusual circumstances, this quiet period will end with the release of a Commission order addressing the forbearance petition[s], or if approved by the Commission, withdrawal of the petition by the petitioner.” *Forbearance Procedures Order,* 24 FCC Rcd at 9561, para. 34. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.58, 1.1203. In accordance with the purpose of section 1.58 of the Commission’s rules, comments submitted on any Commission blog pages during the quiet period will not be considered by the Commission. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)