

January 9, 2017 Via Web Filing

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director South Dakota Public Utilities Commission 500 East Capitol Avenue Capitol Building, 1st Floor Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Talk America Services, LLC; Notice of Discontinuation of Service

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

This letter is submitted on behalf of Talk America Services, LLC ("Talk America Services" or "Company") to notify the Commission of the Company's intent to discontinue certain services to one customer in South Dakota. The Company was issued a Certificate of Authority in Docket TC14-082 on November 25, 2014. The Company does <u>not</u> seek to relinquish its operating authority, but only to discontinue service to an existing customer, as described more fully herein.

Talk America Services intends to discontinue the provision of local exchange, digital subscriber line ("DSL") internet access and intrastate and interstate long distance services to one (1) customer in South Dakota on or about April 1, 2017, pending applicable regulatory approvals. The services are being discontinued because Talk America Services' wholesale service provider, Windstream, intends to decommission the telecommunications equipment that is used to serve the affected customer. Talk America Services to the impacted customer. Talk America Services is providing the attached notice of the proposed discontinuance to the affected South Dakota customer via 1st class U.S. mail on or around January 9, 2017. The Company has established a dedicated toll-free customer service number to assist customers in transitioning their service to other providers.

The affected South Dakota customer is in a location where CenturyLink serves as the underlying incumbent local exchange carrier. CenturyLink offers voice and data services comparable to those provided by Talk America Services. Accordingly, this customer will be able to continue to receive uninterrupted telephone service by switching to CenturyLink or other alternatives prior to Talk America Services' discontinuance date.

Any questions you may have regarding this filing should be directed to my attention at 407-740-3031 or via email to sthomas@tminc.com. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sharon Thomas

Sharon Thomas Consultant to Talk America Services, LLC

cc: Talk America Services tms: SDx1701

Enclosure



January 9 , 2016

URGENT: Your telephone services will be impacted unless you take action!

Dear Valued Customer,

Talk America Services, LLC will discontinue offering local exchange (dialtone), digital subscriber line (DSL) internet access and long distance services in your service area on or after April 1, 2017, pending applicable regulatory approvals, due to the decommissioning of equipment by our wholesale service provider.

In order to avoid a permanent disruption of your telephone services, please contact Talk America Services toll-free at 1-800-962-4772 as soon as possible to discuss your available options for an alternative service provider. Failure to do so may result in insufficient time to transition your services to an alternative provider and could result in a complete loss of your dialtone, internet access and long distance services, including the loss of your telephone number, with no short-term ability to restore them. <u>You will need to migrate these services to an alternative provider before April 1, 2017.</u>

This discontinuance of service will affect Talk America Services' customers in certain areas of Colorado, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin.

A filing is being made with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for approval of this discontinuance of service.

The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 15 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. You may file your comments electronically through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System using the docket number established in the Commission's public notice for this proceeding, or you may address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the §63.71 Application of Talk America Services, LLC. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

Talk America Services' customer service can be reached at 1-800-962-4772 or <u>customercare@talkamericaservices.com</u> or in writing at 2134 W Laburnum Ave., Richmond, VA 23227.

Sincerely,

Talk America Services, LLC