

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

CENTURYLINK, INC.

and

LEVEL 3 COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,

Defendants.

CASE NO.: 1:17-cv-02028

JUDGE: Ketanji Brown Jackson

**AMENDED FINAL JUDGMENT**

WHEREAS, Plaintiff, United States of America, filed its Complaint on October 2, 2017, the United States and defendants, CenturyLink, Inc. and Level 3 Communications, Inc., by their respective attorneys, have consented to the entry of the Amended Final Judgment without trial or adjudication of any issue of fact or law, and without this Amended Final Judgment constituting any evidence against or admission by any party regarding any issue of fact or law;

AND WHEREAS, defendants agree to be bound by the provisions of this Amended Final Judgment pending its approval by the Court;

AND WHEREAS, the essence of this Amended Final Judgment is the prompt and certain divestiture of certain rights or assets by the defendants to assure that competition is not substantially lessened;

AND WHEREAS, the United States requires defendants to make certain divestitures for the purpose of remedying the loss of competition alleged in the Complaint;

AND WHEREAS, defendants have represented to the United States that the divestitures required below can and will be made and that defendants will later raise no claim of hardship or difficulty as grounds for asking the Court to modify any of the divestiture provisions contained below;

NOW THEREFORE, before any testimony is taken, without trial or adjudication of any issue of fact or law, and upon consent of the parties, it is ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED:

## **I. JURISDICTION**

This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of and each of the parties to this action. The Complaint states a claim upon which relief may be granted against defendants under Section 7 of the Clayton Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. § 18).

## **II. DEFINITIONS**

As used in this Amended Final Judgment:

A. “Acquirer” or “Acquirers” means the entity or entities to whom defendants divest the Divestiture Assets.

B. “Agent” means any entity authorized on an exclusive basis to bind CenturyLink in the provision of telecommunications services, but does not include an entity that may be authorized by other providers to sell telecommunications services.

C. “Boise Divestiture MSA” means the Boise City-Nampa, Idaho MSA.

D. “Boise MSA Customers” means customers who purchased telecommunications services from Level 3 at a location in the Boise Divestiture MSA as of the date of entry of the Final Judgment (ECF No. 11), March 6, 2018, but does not include the customers listed in Appendix A.

E. “CenturyLink” means defendant CenturyLink, Inc., a Louisiana corporation with its headquarters in Monroe, Louisiana, its successors and assigns, and its subsidiaries, divisions, groups, affiliates, partnerships, and joint ventures, and their directors, officers, managers, Agents, and employees.

F. “Construction Contractors” means individuals or companies hired by defendants to conduct construction activities, including but not limited to contacting customers to request permission to conduct site surveys and obtain building access for construction activities.

G. “Covered Customers” means Boise MSA Customers and Majority Boise MSA Customers who either (1) notified CenturyLink of their decision to switch their telecommunications services to the Acquirer of the Boise MSA Assets pursuant to Section IV(K) of the Final Judgment; or (2) provide defendants notice in accordance with Paragraph IV(L)(1) and Paragraph IV(L)(4) that they intend to switch telecommunications services to the Acquirer and no longer receive any telecommunications services from defendants.

H. “Customer Premises Equipment” means equipment located on the customer premises side of the demarcation point with the telecommunications service provider and used to serve one customer at the location.

I. “Dark Fiber” means fiber optic strands provided without electronic or optronic equipment.

J. “Divestiture Assets” means the MSA Divestiture Assets and the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets.

K. “Divestiture MSA” means, separately, the MSAs of (1) Albuquerque, New Mexico; (2) Boise City-Nampa, Idaho; and (3) Tucson, Arizona.

L. “Gateway Location,” means a facility in or near an MSA where intercity fiber terminates and connects with a Metropolitan Area Network and/or other intercity fiber.

M. “Intercity Dark Fiber Assets” means IRUs for 24 strands of Dark Fiber in the same cable, if available, or if not available in the same cable, then in the same duct bank, on the Intercity Routes and any Dark Fiber necessary to connect any Intercity Route with another Intercity Route that terminates at a different Gateway Location in the same MSA. The term “Intercity Dark Fiber Assets” shall be construed as broadly as necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Amended Final Judgment and any IRU shall provide the following:

- (1) A term of twenty-five (25) years, with two options to extend for two (2) additional five (5) year terms (for a total of ten (10) years), exercisable at the Acquirer’s sole discretion at any time during the initial 25-year term so long as written notice is provided to the defendants at least ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of the IRU term, and, for each five-year renewal term, at a price not to exceed 20% of the fee initially paid by the Acquirer for the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets;
- (2) Subject to the approval of the United States, in its sole discretion, customary terms and conditions, including terms regarding respective operations and maintenance rights and obligations; fiber quality, testing, and technical performance; access; and cooperation;
- (3) The right to assign the IRU, in whole or in part, without the consent of defendants; and
- (4) All additional rights defendants have that are necessary (including, as needed, rights to access and occupy space in defendants’ facilities) to enable the Acquirer

or its assignee to provide telecommunications services using the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets.

N. “Intercity Routes” means Dark Fiber connecting the endpoints specified in Appendix B.

O. “IRU” means indefeasible right of use, a long-term leasehold interest that gives the holder the exclusive right to use specified fiber optic strands in a telecommunications facility for a stated term.

P. “Lateral Connection” means fiber optic strands, from the demarcation point in a building, including any equipment at the demarcation point necessary to connect the fiber to Customer Premises Equipment, to the point at which such fiber optic strands are spliced with other fiber optic strands that serve multiple buildings, and any existing related duct, conduit, or other containing or support structure.

Q. “Level 3” means defendant Level 3 Communications, Inc., a Delaware corporation with its headquarters in Broomfield, Colorado, its successors and assigns, and its subsidiaries, divisions, groups, affiliates, partnerships, and joint ventures, and their directors, officers, managers, agents, and employees.

R. “Majority Boise MSA Customers” means Boise MSA Customers for which, as of August 2017, Level 3’s monthly recurring revenues were greater in the Boise Divestiture MSA than outside the Boise Divestiture MSA.

S. “Majority MSA Customers” means MSA Customers for which, as of August 2017, Level 3’s monthly recurring revenues were greater in the Divestiture MSAs than outside the Divestiture MSAs.

T. “Metropolitan Area Network” means fiber optic strands that are used to connect Lateral Connections to one another and to Gateway Locations and any existing related duct, conduit or other containing or support structure.

U. “MSA” means Metropolitan Statistical Area, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

V. “MSA Customers” means customers who purchased telecommunications services from Level 3 at a location within any of the Divestiture MSAs, but shall not include the customers listed in Appendix A.

W. “MSA Divestiture Assets” means all Level 3 assets, tangible and intangible, used exclusively or primarily to support Level 3’s provision of telecommunications services to customer locations in the Divestiture MSAs, including, but not limited to, Lateral Connections, Metropolitan Area Network; ownership and access rights to all ducts, conduit, and other containing or support structure used by Level 3 to operate or augment such Lateral Connections and Metropolitan Area Network; and all switching, routing, amplification, co-location, or other telecommunications equipment used in or associated with those networks in each Divestiture MSA, up to Level 3’s Gateway Location(s) in each Divestiture MSA. The MSA Divestiture Assets shall also include other assets used by Level 3 for its provision of telecommunications services to customer locations in each Divestiture MSA, including, but not limited to, all licenses, permits and authorizations related to the MSA Divestiture Assets issued by any governmental organization to the extent that such licenses, permits and authorizations are transferrable and such transfer would not prevent Level 3 from providing telecommunications services in the three Divestiture MSAs; all contracts (except as otherwise excluded by the terms of this Amended Final Judgment), teaming arrangements, agreements, leases, commitments,

certifications, and understandings, including supply agreements; all MSA Customer lists (including the name of each MSA Customer and each Majority MSA Customer, the address of each MSA Customer location within the Divestiture MSAs, and the address of each Majority MSA Customer location within the Divestiture MSAs and outside the Divestiture MSAs); all repair and performance records relating to the MSA Divestiture Assets; and all other records relating to the MSA Divestiture Assets reasonably required to permit the Acquirer to conduct a thorough due diligence review of and to operate the MSA Divestiture Assets. The MSA Divestiture Assets shall not include assets, wherever located, used exclusively or primarily in or in support of Level 3's provision of telecommunications services outside the Divestiture MSAs, including the provision of telecommunications services between MSAs.

The term "MSA Divestiture Assets" shall be construed as broadly as necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Amended Final Judgment and is subject to the following:

- (1) The MSA Divestiture Assets shall not include Customer Premises Equipment in a location in a Divestiture MSA currently owned by Level 3 unless and until the customer chooses the Acquirer as its supplier pursuant to Paragraph IV(K) for that location; and
- (2) Level 3's contracts to provide telecommunications services to customers are not included as MSA Divestiture Assets, but are subject to the process specified in Paragraphs IV(K) and IV(L) of this Amended Final Judgment.

### **III. APPLICABILITY**

A. This Amended Final Judgment applies to CenturyLink and Level 3, as defined above, and all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them who receive actual notice of this Amended Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise.

B. If, prior to complying with Section IV, Section V, and Section VI of this Amended Final Judgment, defendants sell or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of their assets or of lesser business units that include the Divestiture Assets, they shall require the purchaser to be bound by the provisions of this Amended Final Judgment. Defendants need not obtain such an agreement from the acquirers of the assets divested pursuant to this Amended Final Judgment.

### **IV. DIVESTITURE OF MSA DIVESTITURE ASSETS**

A. Defendants are ordered and directed, within 120 calendar days after the filing of the Complaint in this matter, or five (5) calendar days after notice of the entry of this Amended Final Judgment by the Court, whichever is later, to divest the MSA Divestiture Assets in a manner consistent with this Amended Final Judgment to an Acquirer or Acquirers in each Divestiture MSA and on terms acceptable to the United States, in its sole discretion. The United States, in its sole discretion, may agree to one or more extensions of this time period not to exceed sixty (60) calendar days in total, and shall notify the Court in such circumstances. If approval or consent from any government unit is necessary with respect to divestiture of the MSA Divestiture Assets by defendants or the Divestiture Trustee and if applications or requests for approval or consent have been filed with the appropriate governmental unit within five (5) calendar days after the United States provides written notice pursuant to Paragraph VII(E) that it does not object to the proposed Acquirer, but an order or other dispositive action on such



applications has not been issued before the end of the period permitted for divestiture, the period shall be extended with respect to divestiture of those MSA Divestiture Assets for which governmental approval or consent has not been issued until five (5) calendar days after such approval or consent is received. Defendants agree to use their best efforts to divest the MSA Divestiture Assets and to seek all necessary regulatory or other approvals or consents necessary for such divestitures as expeditiously as possible.

B. In accomplishing the divestitures ordered by this Amended Final Judgment, defendants promptly shall make known, by usual and customary means, the availability of the entire MSA Divestiture Assets. Defendants shall inform any person making an inquiry regarding a possible purchase of the MSA Divestiture Assets that they are being divested pursuant to this Amended Final Judgment and provide that person with a copy of this Amended Final Judgment. Defendants shall offer to furnish to all prospective Acquirers, subject to customary confidentiality assurances, all information and documents relating to the MSA Divestiture Assets customarily provided in a due diligence process except such information or documents subject to the attorney-client privilege or work-product doctrine. Defendants shall make available such information to the United States at the same time that such information is made available to any other person.

C. With respect to each Divestiture MSA, defendants shall provide the Acquirer of MSA Divestiture Assets and the United States information relating to the personnel whose primary responsibilities relate to the operation of any MSA Divestiture Asset to enable the Acquirer to make offers of employment. Defendants will not interfere with any negotiations by the Acquirer to employ such personnel.

D. Defendants shall permit prospective Acquirers of the MSA Divestiture Assets to have reasonable access to personnel and to make inspections of the physical facilities of the MSA Divestiture Assets; access to any and all environmental, zoning, title, right-of-way, and other permit documents and information; and access to any and all financial, operational, or other documents and information customarily provided as part of a due diligence process.

E. Defendants shall warrant to any Acquirer(s) that the MSA Divestiture Assets will be operational on the date of sale.

F. Defendants shall not take any action that will impede in any way the permitting, operation, or divestiture of the MSA Divestiture Assets.

G. Subject to approval by the United States, defendants may enter into a negotiated contract with each Acquirer of MSA Divestiture Assets for a period of two (2) years from the closing date of the divestiture of the MSA Divestiture Assets, under which the Acquirer would provide to defendants all Lateral Connections and associated Metropolitan Area Network needed to support Level 3 customers in the applicable Divestiture MSA that choose to remain customers of defendants.

H. At the option of the Acquirer(s), defendants shall enter into a Transition Services Agreement for any services that are reasonably necessary for the Acquirer(s) to maintain, operate, provision, monitor, or otherwise support the MSA Divestiture Assets, including any required back office and information technology services, for a period of up to twelve (12) months. The United States, in its sole discretion, may approve one or more extensions of this agreement for a total of up to an additional twelve (12) months. Defendants shall perform all duties and provide all services required of defendants under the Transition Services Agreement. The terms and conditions of any contractual arrangement meant to satisfy this provision must be

reasonably related to market conditions. Any amendments, modifications or extensions of the Transition Services Agreement maybe entered into only with the approval of the United States, in its sole discretion.

I. Defendants shall use their best efforts to obtain from any third parties that provide Level 3, on a leased or IRU basis, Lateral Connections and Metropolitan Area Network in the Divestiture MSAs any consent necessary to transfer, assign, or sublease to the Acquirer the contract(s) for such Lateral Connections or Metropolitan Area Network to the extent related to the MSA Divestiture Assets and will effectuate the transfer, assignment, or sublease of such contract(s) to the Acquirer. The Acquirer and defendants may enter into a commercial services agreement to replace the service provided by any Level 3 Lateral Connections and Metropolitan Area Network in the Divestiture MSAs currently provided to Level 3 on a leased or IRU basis (1) if, because of withheld consent, the parties are unable to transfer, assign, or sublease to the Acquirer any contract(s) for such Lateral Connections or Metropolitan Area Network in the Divestiture MSAs currently provided to Level 3 on a leased or IRU basis; or (2) at the option of the Acquirer and subject to approval by the United States, in its sole discretion. Defendants shall use their best efforts to obtain from any third parties that provide Level 3 rights of way, access rights, or any other rights to operate, expand, or extend Lateral Connections or Metropolitan Area Network in the Divestiture MSAs any consent necessary to transfer such rights to the Acquirer(s).

J. Defendants shall warrant to the Acquirer(s) that they are not aware of any material defects in the environmental, zoning, title, right-of-way, or other permits pertaining to the operation of each asset, and that following the sale of the MSA Divestiture Assets,

defendants will not undertake, directly or indirectly, any challenges to the environmental, zoning, title, right-of-way, or other permits relating to the operation of the MSA Divestiture Assets.

K. For each Divestiture MSA, beginning on the closing date of the sale of the MSA Divestiture Assets and continuing for a period of the lesser of two (2) years from the closing date of the sale or the expiration of an MSA Customer's contract, provided the expiration is at least thirty (30) days after the closing date of the sale, defendants shall

- (1) release the MSA Customers from their contractual obligations for any otherwise applicable termination fees for telecommunications services provided by Level 3 at locations within the applicable Divestiture MSA, in order to enable any MSA Customers, without penalty or delay, to elect to use the Acquirer for provision of such telecommunications services, and
- (2) for any Majority MSA Customers, defendants shall release such customers from their contractual obligations for all Level 3 services for any otherwise applicable termination fees charged by defendants, at all locations serviced by Level 3, even if located outside the applicable Divestiture MSA, provided that defendants and Acquirer shall each be required to pay half of any third-party fees associated with the termination of delivery of telecommunications services to each Majority MSA Customer at each terminated location outside the Divestiture MSAs, in order to enable these customers, without penalty imposed by defendants or delay, to elect to use the Acquirer for the provision of such telecommunications services.

L. Effective as of the date of entry of this Amended Final Judgment, the following provisions shall apply with respect to the Boise Divestiture MSA:

- (1) Upon defendants' receipt from any Boise MSA Customer or Majority Boise MSA Customer of the notification described in Paragraph IV(L)(4) during the period of the lesser of (i) two (2) years following entry of this Amended Final Judgment or (ii) the expiration of that customer's contract, defendants shall
  - (a) for Boise MSA Customers, release that Boise MSA Customer from its contractual obligations for all CenturyLink services for any otherwise applicable termination fee for telecommunications services provided by CenturyLink at locations within the Boise Divestiture MSA, in order to enable any Boise MSA Customer, without penalty or delay, to elect to use Acquirer for provision of such telecommunications services; and
  - (b) for Majority Boise MSA Customers, release such customers from their contractual obligations for all CenturyLink services for any otherwise applicable termination fees charged by defendants at all locations serviced by CenturyLink, even if located outside the Boise Divestiture MSA, provided that defendants and Acquirer shall each be required to pay half of any third-party fees associated with the termination of delivery of telecommunications services to each Majority Boise MSA Customer at each terminated location outside the Boise Divestiture MSA, in order to enable these customers, without penalty or delay imposed by defendants, to elect to use the Acquirer for the provision of such telecommunications services.
- (2) For a period of two (2) years following the entry of this Amended Final Judgment, defendants and their Agents shall not initiate customer-specific

communications to solicit that Covered Customer to provide any telecommunications services to that Covered Customers' locations where the Covered Customer switched telecommunications services pursuant to Paragraph IV(K) of the Final Judgment or in the notification described in Paragraph IV(L)(4). However, nothing in this Amended Final Judgment shall be construed as prohibiting or limiting defendants or their Agents from communicating with customers who also receive services from defendants, or from responding to inquiries or entering into negotiations to provide service at the request of the Covered Customer or of one of CenturyLink's wholesale customers.

- (3) For as long as they are prohibited from initiating customer-specific solicitations with a Covered Customer under Paragraph IV(L)(2) of this Amended Final Judgment, defendants shall ensure that their Construction Contractors in performing work on behalf of defendants do not initiate communications with that Covered Customer unless (1) the Covered Customer is located in a building with multiple tenants and at least one of those tenants is not a Covered Customer; and (2) the Covered Customer is the landlord of the building or otherwise has authority to make decisions related to telecommunications services for the building.
- (4) Within fifteen (15) business days of the date of the filing of this Amended Final Judgment, defendants shall communicate, in a form approved by the United States in its sole discretion, to all Boise MSA Customers notifying the recipient of the entry of and providing a copy of this Amended Final Judgment. The notification shall include a form that the Boise MSA Customers may submit to defendants no

later than the lesser of two (2) years following entry of this Amended Final Judgment or the date of expiration of their current contract with defendants, to notify defendants that they intend to switch telecommunications services to the Acquirer and no longer receive any telecommunications services from defendants, with respect to specified locations. Defendants shall provide the United States a copy of this notification at least ten (10) business days before it is sent. The notification shall specifically advise customers of their rights provided under Paragraph IV(L) of this Amended Final Judgment. The Acquirer shall have the option to include its own notification along with defendants' notification.

M. Within fifteen (15) business days of the date of the sale of any MSA Divestiture Assets to an Acquirer, defendants shall communicate, in a form approved by the United States in its sole discretion, to all MSA Customers notifying the recipients of the divestiture and providing a copy of this Amended Final Judgment. Defendants shall provide the United States a copy of this notification at least ten (10) business days before it is sent. The notification shall specifically advise customers of the rights provided under Paragraphs IV(K) and IV(L) of this Amended Final Judgment. The Acquirer shall have the option to include its own notification along with defendants' notification.

N. Unless the United States otherwise consents in writing, the divestitures pursuant to Section IV, or by Divestiture Trustee appointed pursuant to Section VI, of this Amended Final Judgment, shall include the entire MSA Divestiture Assets and shall be accomplished in such a way as to satisfy the United States, in its sole discretion, that the MSA Divestiture Assets can and will be used by the Acquirer or Acquirers as part of a viable, ongoing business providing telecommunications services. Divestiture of the MSA Divestiture Assets may be made to one or

more Acquirers, provided that (i) all MSA Divestiture Assets in a given Divestiture MSA are divested to a single Acquirer unless otherwise approved by the United States, in its sole discretion, and (ii) in each instance it is demonstrated to the sole satisfaction of the United States that the MSA Divestiture Assets will remain viable and the divestiture of such assets will remedy the competitive harm alleged in the Complaint. The divestitures, whether pursuant to Section IV or Section VI of this Amended Final Judgment,

- (1) shall be made to an Acquirer (or Acquirers) that, in the United States' sole judgment, has the intent and capability (including the necessary managerial, operational, technical, and financial capability) of competing effectively in the provision of telecommunications services; and
- (2) shall be accomplished so as to satisfy the United States, in its sole discretion, that none of the terms of any agreement between an Acquirer (or Acquirers) and defendants give defendants the ability unreasonably to raise the Acquirer's costs, to lower the Acquirer's efficiency, or otherwise to interfere in the ability of the Acquirer to compete effectively.

## **V. DIVESTITURE OF INTERCITY DARK FIBER ASSETS**

A. Defendants are ordered and directed, within 120 calendar days after the closing of CenturyLink's acquisition of Level 3, or five (5) calendar days after notice of the entry of this Amended Final Judgment by the Court, whichever is later, to sell the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets in a manner consistent with this Amended Final Judgment to an Acquirer and on terms acceptable to the United States, in its sole discretion. The United States, in its sole discretion, may agree to one or more extensions of this time period not to exceed sixty (60) calendar days in total, and shall notify the Court in such circumstances. If approval or consent from any



government unit is necessary with respect to the sale of the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets by defendants or the Divestiture Trustee and if applications or requests for approval or consent have been filed with the appropriate governmental unit within five (5) calendar days after the United States provides written notice pursuant to Paragraph VII(E) that it does not object to the proposed Acquirer, but an order or other dispositive action on such applications has not been issued before the end of the period permitted for divestiture, the period shall be extended with respect to divestiture of those Intercity Dark Fiber Assets for which governmental approval or consent has not been issued until five (5) calendar days after such approval or consent is received. Defendants agree to use their best efforts to divest the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets and to seek all necessary regulatory or other approvals or consents necessary for such divestitures as expeditiously as possible.

B. In accomplishing the divestiture ordered by this Section, defendants promptly shall make known, by usual and customary means, the availability of the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets. Defendants shall inform any person making inquiry regarding a possible purchase of the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets that they are being sold pursuant to this Amended Final Judgment and provide that person with a copy of this Amended Final Judgment. Defendants shall offer to furnish to all prospective Acquirers, subject to customary confidentiality assurances, all information and documents relating to the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets customarily provided in a due diligence process except such information or documents subject to the attorney-client privilege or work-product doctrine. Defendants shall make available such information to the United States at the same time that such information is made available to any other person.

C. Defendants shall permit prospective Acquirers of the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets to have reasonable access to personnel and to such other documents and information customarily

provided as part of an IRU transaction, including but not limited to fiber type and performance specifications; date of fiber installation; fiber repair history; fiber maps; route miles; gateway, interconnection, amplification, and regeneration locations; and right-of-way type, owner, and expiration.

D. Defendants shall warrant to the Acquirer that the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets will be available; provided, however, that the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets may be sold prior to the completion date for additional construction that is required to connect the Dallas to Memphis Dark Fibers to the Memphis Gateway Location specified in Appendix B so long as the defendants have taken all appropriate actions to obtain such permits and approvals and to complete the construction of the connection expeditiously thereafter. The Defendants will warrant to the Acquirer that the Acquirer or other end user of the Dark Fiber will be able to light each Dark Fiber pair on the Intercity Routes using one set of electronic or optronic equipment.

E. Defendants shall not take any action that will impede in any way the permitting, operation, or divestiture of the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets.

F. Defendants shall warrant to the Acquirer that there are currently no material defects in the environmental, zoning, title, right-of-way, or other permits pertaining to the operation of the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets, and that following the sale of the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets, defendants will not undertake, directly or indirectly, any challenges to the environmental, zoning, title, right-of-way, or other permits relating to the operation of the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets.

G. Unless the United States otherwise consents in writing, the sale pursuant to Section V, or by Divestiture Trustee appointed pursuant to Section VI, of this Amended Final Judgment, shall include the entire Intercity Dark Fiber Assets, and shall be accomplished in such

a way as to satisfy the United States, in its sole discretion, that the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets can and will be used by the Acquirer as part of a viable, ongoing telecommunications services business including the sale of Dark Fiber IRUs to end users. Divestiture of the Intercity Dark Fiber Assets must be made to a single Acquirer unless otherwise approved by the United States, in its sole discretion. The sale, whether pursuant to Section V or Section VI of this Amended Final Judgment,

- (1) shall be made to an Acquirer that, in the United States' sole judgment, has the intent and capability (including the necessary managerial, operational, technical, and financial capability) of competing effectively in the sale of Dark Fiber IRUs to end users; and
- (2) shall be accomplished so as to satisfy the United States, in its sole discretion, that none of the terms of any agreement between an Acquirer and defendants give defendants the ability unreasonably to raise the Acquirer's costs, to lower the Acquirer's efficiency, or otherwise to interfere in the ability of the Acquirer to compete effectively.

## **VI. APPOINTMENT OF DIVESTITURE TRUSTEE**

A. If defendants have not divested the Divestiture Assets within the time period specified in Paragraph IV(A) and Paragraph V(A), defendants shall notify the United States of that fact in writing. Upon application of the United States, the Court shall appoint a Divestiture Trustee selected by the United States and approved by the Court to effect the divestiture of the Divestiture Assets.

B. After the appointment of a Divestiture Trustee becomes effective, only the Divestiture Trustee shall have the right to sell the Divestiture Assets. The Divestiture Trustee

shall have the power and authority to accomplish the divestiture to an Acquirer(s) acceptable to the United States at such price and on such terms as are then obtainable upon reasonable effort by the Divestiture Trustee, subject to the provisions of Sections IV, V, VI, and VII of this Amended Final Judgment, and shall have such other powers as this Court deems appropriate. Subject to Paragraph VI(D) of this Amended Final Judgment, the Divestiture Trustee may hire at the cost and expense of defendants any investment bankers, attorneys, technical experts or other agents, who shall be solely accountable to the Divestiture Trustee, reasonably necessary in the Divestiture Trustee's judgment to assist in the divestiture. Any such investment bankers, attorneys, or other agents shall serve on such terms and conditions as the United States approves, including confidentiality requirements and conflict of interest certifications.

C. Defendants shall not object to a sale by the Divestiture Trustee on any ground other than the Divestiture Trustee's malfeasance. Any such objections by defendants must be conveyed in writing to the United States and the Divestiture Trustee within ten (10) calendar days after the Divestiture Trustee has provided the notice required under Section VII.

D. The Divestiture Trustee shall serve at the cost and expense of defendants pursuant to a written agreement, on such terms and conditions as the United States approves, including confidentiality requirements and conflict of interest certifications. The Divestiture Trustee shall account for all monies derived from the sale of the assets sold by the Divestiture Trustee and all costs and expenses so incurred. After approval by the Court of the Divestiture Trustee's accounting, including fees for its services yet unpaid and those of any professionals and agents retained by the Divestiture Trustee, all remaining money shall be paid to defendants and the trust shall then be terminated. The compensation of the Divestiture Trustee and any professionals and agents retained by the Divestiture Trustee shall be reasonable in light of the value of the

Divestiture Assets and based on a fee arrangement providing the Divestiture Trustee with an incentive based on the price and terms of the divestiture and the speed with which it is accomplished, but timeliness is paramount. If the Divestiture Trustee and defendants are unable to reach agreement on the Divestiture Trustee's or any agents' or consultants' compensation or other terms and conditions of engagement within fourteen (14) calendar days of appointment of the Divestiture Trustee, the United States may, in its sole discretion, take appropriate action, including making a recommendation to the Court. The Divestiture Trustee shall, within three (3) business days of hiring any other professionals or agents, provide written notice of such hiring and the rate of compensation to defendants and the United States.

E. Defendants shall use their best efforts to assist the Divestiture Trustee in accomplishing the required divestitures, including their best efforts to effect all necessary regulatory or other approvals or consents and will provide necessary representations or warranties as appropriate, related to the sale of the Divestiture Assets. The Divestiture Trustee and any consultants, accountants, attorneys, technical experts, and other agents retained by the Divestiture Trustee shall have full and complete access to the personnel, books, records, and facilities related to the Divestiture Assets, and defendants shall develop financial and other information relevant to the Divestiture Assets as the Divestiture Trustee may reasonably request, subject to reasonable protection for trade secret or other confidential research, development, or commercial information or any applicable privileges. Defendants shall take no action to interfere with or to impede the Divestiture Trustee's accomplishment of the divestiture.

F. After its appointment, the Divestiture Trustee shall file monthly reports with the United States and, as appropriate, the Court setting forth the Divestiture Trustee's efforts to accomplish the divestiture ordered under this Amended Final Judgment. To the extent such

reports contain information that the Divestiture Trustee deems confidential, such reports shall not be filed in the public docket of the Court. Such reports shall include the name, address, and telephone number of each person who, during the preceding month, made an offer to acquire, expressed an interest in acquiring, entered into negotiations to acquire, or was contacted or made an inquiry about acquiring, any interest in the Divestiture Assets, and shall describe in detail each contact with any such person. The Divestiture Trustee shall maintain full records of all efforts made to divest the Divestiture Assets.

G. If the Divestiture Trustee has not accomplished the divestitures ordered under this Amended Final Judgment within six months after its appointment, the Divestiture Trustee shall promptly file with the Court a report setting forth (1) the Divestiture Trustee's efforts to accomplish the required divestiture, (2) the reasons, in the Divestiture Trustee's judgment, why the required divestiture has not been accomplished, and (3) the Divestiture Trustee's recommendations. To the extent such reports contains information that the Divestiture Trustee deems confidential, such reports shall not be filed in the public docket of the Court. The Divestiture Trustee shall at the same time furnish such report to the United States which shall have the right to make additional recommendations consistent with the purpose of the trust. The Court thereafter shall enter such orders as it shall deem appropriate to carry out the purpose of the Amended Final Judgment, which may, if necessary, include extending the trust and the term of the Divestiture Trustee's appointment by a period requested by the United States.

H. If the United States determines that the Divestiture Trustee has ceased to act or failed to act diligently or in a reasonably cost-effective manner, it may recommend the Court appoint a substitute Divestiture Trustee.

## **VII. NOTICE OF PROPOSED DIVESTITURE**

A. Within two (2) business days following execution of a definitive divestiture agreement, defendants or the Divestiture Trustee, whichever is then responsible for effecting the divestiture required herein, shall notify the United States of any proposed divestiture required by Section IV or Section V of this Amended Final Judgment. If the Divestiture Trustee is responsible, it shall similarly notify defendants. The notice shall set forth the details of the proposed divestiture and list the name, address, and telephone number of each person not previously identified who offered or expressed an interest in or desire to acquire any ownership interest in the Divestiture Assets, together with full details of the same.

B. Within fifteen (15) calendar days of receipt by the United States of such notice, the United States may request from defendants, the proposed Acquirer(s), any other third party, or the Divestiture Trustee, if applicable, additional information concerning the proposed divestiture, the proposed Acquirer(s), any other potential Acquirer, including, but not limited to, the contract (or contracts) required by Paragraph IV(F) of this Amended Final Judgment. Defendants and the Divestiture Trustee shall furnish any additional information requested within fifteen (15) calendar days of the receipt of the request, unless the United States shall otherwise agree.

C. Within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the notice or within twenty (20) calendar days after the United States has been provided the additional information requested from defendants, the proposed Acquirer(s), any third party, and the Divestiture Trustee, whichever is later, the United States shall provide written notice to defendants and the Divestiture Trustee, if there is one, stating whether or not it objects to the proposed divestiture. If the United States provides written notice that it does not object, the divestiture may be

consummated, subject only to defendants' limited right to object to the sale under Paragraph VI(C) of this Amended Final Judgment. Absent written notice that the United States does not object to the proposed Acquirer(s) or upon objection by the United States, a divestiture proposed under Section IV or Section V shall not be consummated. Upon objection by defendants under Paragraph VI(C), a divestiture proposed under Section VI shall not be consummated unless approved by the Court.

### **VIII. FINANCING**

Defendants shall not finance all or any part of any purchase made pursuant to Section IV, Section V, or Section VI of this Amended Final Judgment.

### **IX. ASSET PRESERVATION**

Until the divestitures required by this Amended Final Judgment have been accomplished, defendants shall take all steps necessary to comply with the Asset Preservation Stipulation and Order entered by this Court. Defendants shall take no action that would jeopardize the divestiture ordered by this Court.

### **X. AFFIDAVITS**

A. Within twenty (20) calendar days of the filing of the Complaint in this matter, and every thirty (30) calendar days thereafter until the divestiture has been completed under Section IV, Section V, or Section VI, defendants shall deliver to the United States an affidavit as to the fact and manner of its compliance with Section IV, Section V, or Section VI of this Amended Final Judgment. Each such affidavit shall include the name, address, and telephone number of each person who, during the preceding thirty (30) calendar days, made an offer to acquire, expressed an interest in acquiring, entered into negotiations to acquire, or was contacted or made an inquiry about acquiring, any interest in the Divestiture Assets, and shall describe in detail



each contact with any such person during that period. Each such affidavit shall also include a description of the efforts defendants have taken to solicit buyers for the Divestiture Assets, and to provide required information to prospective Acquirers, including the limitations, if any, on such information. Assuming the information set forth in the affidavit is true and complete, any objection by the United States to information provided by defendants, including limitation on information, shall be made within fourteen (14) calendar days of the receipt of such affidavit.

B. Within twenty (20) calendar days of the filing of the Complaint in this matter, defendants shall deliver to the United States an affidavit that describes in reasonable detail all actions defendants have taken and all steps defendants have implemented on an ongoing basis to comply with Section IX of this Amended Final Judgment. Defendants shall deliver to the United States an affidavit describing any changes to the efforts and actions outlined in defendants' earlier affidavits filed pursuant to this Section within fifteen (15) calendar days after the change is implemented.

C. Defendants shall keep all records of all efforts made to preserve and divest the Divestiture Assets until one year after such divestiture has been completed.

## **XI. COMPLIANCE INSPECTION**

A. For the purposes of determining or securing compliance with this Amended Final Judgment, or of any related orders such as any Hold Separate Stipulation and Order, or of determining whether this Amended Final Judgment should be modified or vacated, and subject to any legally-recognized privilege, from time to time authorized representatives of the United States Department of Justice, including consultants and other persons retained by the United States, shall, upon written request of an authorized representative of the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, and on reasonable notice to defendants, be permitted:

- (1) access during defendants' office hours to inspect and copy, or at the option of the United States, to require defendants to provide hard copy or electronic copies of, all books, ledgers, accounts, records, data, and documents in the possession, custody, or control of defendants, relating to any matters contained in this Amended Final Judgment; and
  - (2) to interview, either informally or on the record, defendants' officers, employees, or agents, who may have their individual counsel present, regarding such matters.
- The interviews shall be subject to the reasonable convenience of the interviewee and without restraint or interference by defendants.

B. Upon the written request of an authorized representative of the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, defendants shall submit written reports or response to written interrogatories, under oath if requested, relating to any of the matters contained in this Amended Final Judgment as may be requested.

C. No information or documents obtained by the means provided in this Section shall be divulged by the United States to any person other than an authorized representative of the executive branch of the United States, except in the course of legal proceedings to which the United States is a party (including grand jury proceedings), or for the purpose of securing compliance with this Amendment, or as otherwise required by law.

D. If at the time information or documents are furnished by defendants to the United States, defendants represent and identify in writing the material in any such information or documents to which a claim of protection may be asserted under Rule 26(c)(1)(g) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and defendants mark each pertinent page of such material, "Subject to claim of protection under Rule 26(c)(1)(g) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure," then the

United States shall give defendants ten (10) calendar days' notice prior to divulging such material in any legal proceeding (other than grand jury proceedings).

## **XII. NO REACQUISITION**

Except as provided in this Amended Final Judgment, absent written approval by the United States, in its sole discretion, defendants may not reacquire or lease back any part of the Divestiture Assets during the term of this Amended Final Judgment.

## **XIII. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION**

This Court retains jurisdiction to enable any party to this Amended Final Judgment to apply to this Court at any time for further orders and directions as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out or construe this Amended Final Judgment, to modify any of its provisions, to enforce compliance, and to punish violations of its provisions.

## **XIV. EXPIRATION OF AMENDED FINAL JUDGMENT**

Unless this Court grants an extension, this Amended Final Judgment shall expire ten (10) years from the date of its entry.

## **XV. PUBLIC INTEREST DETERMINATION**

Entry of this Amended Final Judgment is in the public interest. The parties have previously complied with the requirements of the Antitrust Procedures and Penalties Act, 15 U.S.C. § 16, including making copies available to the public of the Final Judgment entered by the Court on March 6, 2018 (ECF No. 11), the Competitive Impact Statement, and any comments thereon and the United States' responses to comments. Based upon the record before the Court, entry of this Amended Final Judgment is in the public interest.

## **XVI. APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING TRUSTEE**

A. Upon application of the United States, the Court shall appoint a Monitoring Trustee selected by the United States and approved by the Court.

B. The Monitoring Trustee shall have the power and authority to monitor defendants' compliance with the terms of this Amended Final Judgment entered by the Court, and shall have such other powers as the Court deems appropriate. The Monitoring Trustee shall be required to investigate and report on defendants' compliance with this Amended Final Judgment, and defendants' progress toward effectuating the purposes of this Amended Final Judgment, including but not limited to: (1) ensuring that the defendants follow reasonable processes for identifying Covered Customers; (2) ensuring that defendants notify Covered Customers of their rights under Paragraph IV(L); and (3) ensuring that defendants comply with Paragraphs IV(K), IV(L), IV(M), and IV(N) of this Amended Final Judgment.

C. Subject to Paragraph XVI(E) of this Amended Final Judgment, the Monitoring Trustee may hire at the cost and expense of defendants any agents, investment bankers, attorneys, accountants, or consultants, who shall be solely accountable to the Monitoring Trustee, reasonably necessary in the Monitoring Trustee's judgment. Any such agents or consultants shall serve on such terms and conditions as the United States approves, including confidentiality requirements and conflict of interest certifications.

D. Defendants shall not object to actions taken by the Monitoring Trustee in fulfillment of the Monitoring Trustee's responsibilities under any Order of the Court on any ground other than the Monitoring Trustee's malfeasance. Any such objections by defendants must be conveyed in writing to the United States and the Monitoring Trustee within ten (10)

calendar days after the action taken by the Monitoring Trustee giving rise to defendants' objection.

E. The Monitoring Trustee shall serve at the cost and expense of defendants pursuant to a written agreement with defendants and on such terms and conditions as the United States approves, including confidentiality requirements and conflict of interest certifications. The compensation of the Monitoring Trustee and any agents or consultants retained by the Monitoring Trustee shall be on reasonable and customary terms commensurate with the individuals' experience and responsibilities. If the Monitoring Trustee and defendants are unable to reach agreement on the Monitoring Trustee's or any agents' or consultants' compensation or other terms and conditions of engagement within fourteen (14) calendar days of the appointment of the Monitoring Trustee, the United States may, in its sole discretion, take appropriate action, including making a recommendation to the Court. The Monitoring Trustee shall, within three (3) business days of hiring any agents or consultants, provide written notice of such hiring and the rate of compensation to defendants and the United States.

F. The Monitoring Trustee shall have no responsibility or obligation for the operation of defendants' businesses.

G. Defendants shall use their best efforts to assist the Monitoring Trustee in monitoring defendants' compliance with their individual obligations under this Amended Final Judgment. The Monitoring Trustee and any agents or consultants retained by the Monitoring Trustee shall have full and complete access to the personnel, books, records, and facilities relating to compliance with this Amended Final Judgment, subject to reasonable protection for trade secrets; other confidential research, development, or commercial information; or any

applicable privileges. Defendants shall take no action to interfere with or to impede the Monitoring Trustee's accomplishment of its responsibilities.

H. After its appointment, the Monitoring Trustee shall file reports monthly, or more frequently as needed, with the United States, setting forth defendants' efforts to comply with their obligations under this Amended Final Judgment.

I. The Monitoring Trustee shall serve until the expiration of this Amended Final Judgment.

J. If the United States determines that the Monitoring Trustee has ceased to act or failed to act diligently or in a reasonably cost-effective manner, it may recommend the Court appoint a substitute Monitoring Trustee.

#### **XVII. ENFORCEMENT OF AMENDED FINAL JUDGMENT**

A. The United States retains and reserves all rights to enforce the provisions of this Amended Final Judgment, including the right to seek an order of contempt from the Court. Defendants agree that in any civil contempt action, any motion to show cause, or any similar action brought by the United States regarding an alleged violation of this Amended Final Judgment, the United States may establish a violation of the decree and the appropriateness of any remedy therefor by a preponderance of the evidence, and defendants waive any argument that a different standard of proof should apply.

B. This Amended Final Judgment should be interpreted to give full effect to the procompetitive purposes of the antitrust laws and to restore all competition the United States alleged was harmed by the challenged conduct. Defendants agree that they may be held in contempt of, and that the Court may enforce, any provision of this Amended Final Judgment that, as interpreted by the Court in light of these procompetitive principles and applying ordinary

tools of interpretation, is stated specifically and in reasonable detail, whether or not it is clear and unambiguous on its face. In any such interpretation, the terms of this Amended Final Judgment should not be construed against either party as the drafter.

C. In any enforcement proceeding in which the Court finds that defendants have violated this Amended Final Judgment, the United States may apply to the Court for a one-time extension of this Amended Final Judgment, together with other relief as may be appropriate. In connection with any successful effort by the United States to enforce this Amended Final Judgment against a defendant, whether litigated or resolved before litigation, that defendant agrees to reimburse the United States for the fees and expenses of its attorneys, as well as any other costs including experts' fees, incurred in connection with that enforcement effort, including in the investigation of the potential violation.

D. For a period of four (4) years following the expiration of the Amended Final Judgment, if the United States has evidence that a defendant violated this Amended Final Judgment before it expired, the United States may file an action against that defendant in this Court requesting that the Court order (1) defendant to comply with the terms of this Amended Final Judgment for an additional term of at least four years following the filing of the enforcement action under this Section, (2) any appropriate contempt remedies, (3) any additional relief needed to ensure the Defendant complies with the terms of the Amended Final Judgment, and (4) fees or expenses as called for in this Section.

#### **XVIII. FEES AND COSTS**

Defendants shall pay the United States its reasonable costs and attorney fees incurred in investigating defendants' conduct and in connection with its investigation of violation of the

Final Judgment dated March 6, 2018 (ECF No. 11), in an amount of \$250,000, to be paid within 60 days of entry of this Amended Final Judgment.

Date: August 17, 2020

Ketanji Brown Jackson  
Ketanji Brown Jackson  
United States District Judge



## **APPENDIX A**

The following customers serviced in the Divestiture MSAs, identified for confidentiality purposes by Level 3's customer identification code, are excluded from the definition of MSA Customers and are not subject to the procedures outlined in Paragraphs IV(K) and (L) of this Amended Final Judgment:

1. 1-8UM5C, Tucson, AZ
2. 2-LOTDXB, Albuquerque, NM
3. 2-79C52T, Boise, ID 83716
4. 1-5JXJ4, Albuquerque, NM
5. 2-TRJJST, Boise, ID

## APPENDIX B

Route	Origin Gateway Location Address	Termination Gateway Location Address
Atlanta to Nashville	55 Marietta St NW, Atlanta, GA 30303	460 MetroplexDr, Nashville, TN 37211
Birmingham to Billingsley AL	2001 Park Pl, Birmingham, AL 35203	4521 Chilton Rd, Enterprise, AL 36006
Charlotte to Atlanta	731 E Trade St, Charlotte, NC 28202	55 Marietta St NW, Atlanta, GA 30303
Cleveland to Buffalo	1501 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44115	1090 Harlem Rd, Buffalo, NY 14227
Dallas to Memphis	1950 N Stemmons Fwy, Dallas, TX 75207	715 S Danny Thomas Blvd, Memphis TN 38126
Denver to Dallas	23751 E 6th Ave, Aurora, CO 80018	1950 N Stemmons Fwy, Dallas, TX 75207
Denver to Kansas City	23751 E 6th Ave, Aurora, CO 80018	711 E 19th St, Kansas City, MO 64108
El Paso to San Antonio	201 E Main St, El Paso, TX 79901	231 Rotary St, San Antonio, TX 78202
Houston to New Orleans	11947 N Fwy, Houston, TX 77060	1340 Poydras St, New Orleans, LA 70112
Indianapolis to Cincinnati	550 Kentucky Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46225	607 Evans St, Cincinnati, OH 45204
Kansas City to St Louis	711 E 19th St, Kansas City, MO 64108	11755 Dunlap Industrial Dr, Maryland Heights, MO
Los Angeles to Las Vegas	624 S Grand Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90017	4275 E Sahara Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89104
Memphis to Nashville	715 S Danny Thomas Blvd, Memphis TN 38126	460 MetroplexDr, Nashville, TN 37211
Miami to Jacksonville	36 NE 2nd St, Miami, FL 33132	421 W Church St, Jacksonville, FL 32202
Nashville to Indianapolis	460 MetroplexDr, Nashville, TN 37211	550 Kentucky Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46225
Orlando to Around Daytona	121 Weber St, Orlando, FL 32803	500 W International Speedway Blvd Daytona Beach, FL 32114
Phoenix to El Paso	429 S 6th Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85003	201 E Main St, El Paso, TX 79901
Portland to Salt Lake City	707 SW Washington St, Portland, OR 97205	572 Delong St, Salt Lake City, UT 84104
Raleigh to Charlotte	115 N Harrington St, Raleigh, NC 27603	731 E Trade St, Charlotte, NC 28202
Richmond to Raleigh	4233 Carolina Ave, Richmond, VA 23222	115 N Harrington St, Raleigh, NC 27603
Sacramento to Salt Lake City	770 L St, Sacramento, CA 95814	572 Delong St, Salt Lake City, UT 84104
Sacramento to San Francisco	770 L St, Sacramento, CA 95814	200 Paul Ave, San Francisco, CA 94124
Salt Lake City to Denver	572 Delong St, Salt Lake City, UT 84104	23751 E 6th Ave, Aurora, CO 80018
San Diego to Phoenix	4216 University Ave, San Diego, CA 92105	429 S 6th Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85003
San Francisco to Los Angeles	200 Paul Ave, San Francisco, CA 94124	624 S Grand Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90017

Route	Origin Gateway Location Address	Termination Gateway Location Address
Tallahassee to Jacksonville	601 Stone Valley Way, Tallahassee, FL 32310	421 W Church St, Jacksonville, FL 32202
Tallahassee to Tampa	601 Stone Valley Way, Tallahassee, FL 32310	5908A Hampton Oaks Pkwy, Tampa, FL 33610
Tampa to Miami	5908A Hampton Oaks Pkwy, Tampa, FL 33610	36 NE 2nd St, Miami, FL 33132
Tampa to Orlando	5908A Hampton Oaks Pkwy, Tampa, FL 33610	121 Weber St, Orlando, FL 32803
Washington DC to Richmond	1500 Eckington PINE, Washington DC 20002	4233 Carolina Ave, Richmond, VA 23222