



**Pamela Sherwood**  
Assistant General Counsel  
4625 W. 86<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Indianapolis, IN 46268  
(317) 713-8977  
[Pamela.sherwood@lumen.com](mailto:Pamela.sherwood@lumen.com)

March 31, 2022

**VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL**

Ms. Aida Camacho, Secretary  
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: *I/M/O* Joint Petition of United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc.  
d/b/a CenturyLink and Peerless Network of New Jersey, LLC. for  
Approval of the Carrier Partner for Interconnected VoIP Provider  
Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement  
BPU Docket No. TO18121350

Dear Secretary Camacho:

Enclosed for filing is the Carrier Partner for Interconnected VoIP Provider Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement (“Amendment”) between by and between and United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink (“CenturyLink”) and Peerless Network of New Jersey, LLC (“Peerless”) for approval. The Interconnection Agreement that this Amendment is amending was filed on or around December 19, 2018 in BPU Docket No. TO18121350.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Pamela Sherwood

PS/sc  
enclosures

cc: John Barnicle, President and CEO (*via electronic mail: regulatory@peerlessnetwork.com*)  
Patrick Phipps, Director (*via electronic mail: Phipps@peerlessnetwork.com*)  
Tony Hiller, Sr. EVP Operations (*via electronic mail: thiller@peerlessnetwork.com*)

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

---

<b>I/M/O JOINT PETITION FOR APPROVAL</b>	<b>:</b>	
<b>OF THE CARRIER PARTNER FOR</b>	<b>:</b>	
<b>INTERCONNECTED VOIP PROVIDER</b>	<b>:</b>	
<b>AMENDMENT TO THE</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>BPU DOCKET NO.</b>
<b>INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>TO18121350</b>
<b>BETWEEN UNITED TELEPHONE</b>	<b>:</b>	
<b>COMPANY OF NEW JERSEY, INC. D/B/A</b>	<b>:</b>	
<b>CENTURYLINK AND PEERLESS NETWORK:</b>	<b>:</b>	
<b>OF NEW JERSEY, LLC</b>	<b>:</b>	

---

**JOINT PETITION OF UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY OF NEW JERSEY, INC.  
D/B/A CENTURYLINK**

Pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "1996 Act"),<sup>1</sup> United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink ("CenturyLink"), respectfully files the attached Carrier Partner for Interconnected VoIP Provider Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement ("Amendment") between CenturyLink and Peerless Network of New Jersey, LLC. ("Peerless"). CenturyLink and Peerless request that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") approve the attached Amendment. In support, CenturyLink in conjunction with Peerless, state as follows:

**THE PARTIES**

1. CenturyLink is an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier ("ILEC") authorized to provide local exchange telephone services in portions of the State of New Jersey.
2. Peerless is a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier ("CLEC") in the State of New Jersey.

---

<sup>1</sup> Citations herein to the 1996 Act should be construed as references to sections of the Communications Act of 1934 as amended by the 1996 Act.

3. Peerless has executed an Amendment to the Agreement with CenturyLink under Section 251 for the State of New Jersey. A copy of the Peerless and CenturyLink Amendment is attached hereto at Appendix A.

### **THE AGREEMENT**

4. CenturyLink and Peerless have entered into the Amendment pursuant to Sections 251(b), (c) and 252(a) of the 1996 Act.

5. CenturyLink and Peerless have entered into the Carrier Partner for Interconnected VoIP Provider Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement which governs the terms and conditions for transport and termination of Telecommunications traffic.

6. The Amendment is an integrated package that reflects a negotiated balance of many interests and concerns critical to both parties.

7. The attached Amendment is effective upon Commission approval.

### **COMPLIANCE WITH THE 1996 ACT**

8. The Amendment satisfies the requirements for Board approval pursuant to Section 252(e)(2)(A) of the 1996 Act, which provides as follows:

"The State commission may only reject...an agreement (or any portion thereof) adopted by negotiation under subsection (a) if it finds that--

- (i) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement;  
or
- (ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity[.]"

9. First, the Amendment does not discriminate against any other telecommunications carrier, as required by Section 252(e)(2)(A)(i).

10. Second, the Amendment is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, as required by Section 252(e)(2)(A)(ii).

**APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT**

11. CenturyLink, in conjunction with Peerless, respectfully requests that the Board approve this Petition and the attached Amendment to the extent Board approval is required.

**WHEREFORE**, CenturyLink, with the concurrence of Peerless, respectfully requests that the Board approve the attached Amendment pursuant to Section 252(e) of the 1996 Act.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Pamela Sherwood, Esquire  
United Telephone Company of New Jersey,  
Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink  
4625 W. 86<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Indianapolis, IN 46268  
(317) 713-8977  
[Pamela.sherwood@lumen.com](mailto:Pamela.sherwood@lumen.com)

Dated: March 31, 2022

**Carrier Partner for Interconnected VoIP Provider Amendment  
to the Interconnection Agreement between  
United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink  
and  
Peerless Network of New Jersey, LLC  
for the State of New Jersey**

This Carrier Partner for Interconnected VoIP Provider Amendment (the "Amendment") is to the Interconnection Agreement between United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink ("CenturyLink"), and Peerless Network of New Jersey, LLC ("CLEC"). CenturyLink and CLEC shall be known jointly as the "Parties".

**RECITALS**

WHEREAS, the Parties entered into an Interconnection Agreement ("Agreement") for service in the state of New Jersey which executed by the Parties on November 7, 2018, which, among other terms, required each party to provide for the exchange of Exchange Service (EAS/Local), IntraLATA LEC Toll, Transit, VoIP-PSTN Traffic and Jointly Provided Switched Access traffic; and

WHEREAS, CLEC wishes to act as a Carrier Partner for an Interconnected VoIP Provider, which obtains their own number resources pursuant to FCC Report and Order 15-70 ("VoIP Numbering Order"), released June 22, 2015. CLEC will provide a switch for its use and seeks to combine CLEC's traffic with Interconnected VoIP Provider's VoIP-PSTN Traffic and exchange such traffic with CenturyLink according to the terms of this "Carrier Partner for Interconnected VoIP Provider Amendment" (the "Carrier Partner Amendment"), subject to limitations and requirements of the Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") and other applicable requirements, including but not limited to the Agreement and the Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to amend the Agreement under the terms and conditions contained herein.

**AGREEMENT**

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual terms, covenants and conditions contained in this Amendment and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

**Amendment Terms**

The Agreement is hereby amended by adding specific terms and conditions under which CLEC exchanges traffic with CenturyLink as set forth in Attachment 1 to this Amendment, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

**Effective Date**

This Amendment shall be deemed effective upon approval by the Commission, or by being permitted to go into effect by operation of law; however, the Parties may agree to implement the provisions of this Amendment upon execution. To accommodate this need, CLEC must generate, if necessary, updated customer documentation. In addition, all system updates will need to be completed by CenturyLink. Carrier Partner will be notified when all system changes have been made. Actual order processing may begin once these requirements have been met.

**Further Amendments**

Except as modified herein, the provisions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect. The provisions of this Carrier Partner Amendment, including the provisions of this sentence, may not be amended, modified or supplemented, and waivers or consents to departures from the provisions of this Carrier Partner Amendment may not be given without the written consent thereto by both Parties' authorized representative. No waiver by any Party of any default, misrepresentation, or breach of warranty or covenant hereunder, whether intentional or not, will be deemed to extend to any prior or subsequent default, misrepresentation, or breach of warranty or covenant hereunder or affect in any way any rights arising by virtue of any prior or subsequent such occurrence.

**Entire Agreement**

The Agreement as amended (including the documents referred to herein) constitutes the full and entire understanding and agreement between the Parties with regard to the subjects of the Agreement as amended and supersedes any prior understandings, agreements, or representations by or between the Parties, written or oral, to the extent they relate in any way to the subjects of the Agreement as amended.

The Parties intending to be legally bound have executed this Amendment as of the dates set forth below, in multiple counterparts, each of which is deemed an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.

**Peerless Network of New Jersey, LLC**

**United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink**

Tony Hiller  
Tony Hiller (Mar 31, 2022 10:06 CDT)

Kimberly J. Povirk  
Kimberly J. Povirk (Mar 31, 2022 11:01 CDT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Tony Hiller  
Name Printed/Typed

Kimberly J. Povirk  
Name Printed/Typed

Sr. Executive Vice President – Operations  
Title

Sr. Dir. Bus. Ops Wholesale Sales  
Title

Mar 31, 2022  
Date

Mar 31, 2022  
Date

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**The following language is added to the existing language, in the Agreement, in its entirety:**

**Definitions**

Carrier Partner is a Certified Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) that provides the facilities and trunking that an Interconnected VoIP Provider needs in order to exchange traffic with CenturyLink and demonstrates facilities readiness as described in the VoIP Numbering Order.

Denial of Service (DoS) is an action that prevents legitimate user(s) from using or being provided service.

Interconnected VoIP Provider is an entity that provides interconnected VoIP service, as that term is defined in 47 C.F.R. §9.3 and that obtains numbering resources as described in the VoIP Numbering Order.

**Terms of Carrier Partner Amendment**

1. Pursuant to the terms of this Amendment, CLEC will be exchanging with CenturyLink VoIP-PSTN Traffic, Transit and Jointly Provided Switched Access traffic of Interconnected VoIP Providers on the CLEC's interconnection trunks.
  - 1.1 Prior to CLEC exchanging traffic for an Interconnected VoIP Provider with CenturyLink, CLEC will notify CenturyLink and CenturyLink will confirm that the Interconnected VoIP Provider has entered into an "Interconnected VoIP Provider Numbering Agreement" with CenturyLink.
  - 1.2 CLEC will notify CenturyLink when CLEC is no longer routing an Interconnected VoIP Provider's traffic on CLEC's interconnection trunks.
  - 1.3 CLEC will provide such notifications to their CenturyLink Customer Account Manager (CAM).
  - 1.4 CLEC will follow applicable procedures of the LERG and the CLEC Agreement in order to identify the OCNs and NPA-NXX(s) of the Interconnected VoIP Provider which will be associated with the CLEC's Switch and routed on the CLEC's interconnection trunk groups.
  - 1.5 The Interconnected VoIP Provider may use a POI CLLI for code entry in LERG 6 and they must also designate the responsible CLEC Carrier Partner's end office CLLI as the Actual Switch ID in LERG 7 SHA.
2. CLEC and CenturyLink will continue to exchange traffic under the terms of the CLEC Agreement, including treatment of traffic terminating to CenturyLink end users. Solely for purposes of this Amendment, all traffic originated by parties utilizing CLEC and terminating to CenturyLink end

users or transiting CenturyLink to other providers will be treated as though originated by CLEC, including but not limited to terminating intercarrier compensation, Transit compensation, compensation for use of interconnection transport facilities, and establishment of direct trunk groups.

3. No compensation for transiting traffic will be paid by CenturyLink to CLEC for traffic that CenturyLink sends through the CLEC to terminate to Interconnected VoIP Provider. All CenturyLink end user traffic will be treated as though it was terminated with the CLEC.

4. Interconnected VoIP Provider traffic will be included as the CLEC's responsibility in accordance with applicable terms of the Agreement.

5. This Amendment does not otherwise modify or supersede the terms and conditions of any agreement that CLEC may have with CenturyLink, including tariff, Interconnection and/or other agreements.

6. This Amendment does not authorize CLEC to bill CenturyLink on behalf of Interconnected VoIP Provider for any charges associated with transit traffic, terminating traffic or interconnection facilities, including, but not limited to any compensation arrangements contained in separate agreements or tariffs with CenturyLink.

7. CLEC will pass unaltered signaling information (e.g., originating Calling Party Number and destination called party number, etc.) for the Interconnected VoIP Provider's traffic per 47 C.F.R. § 64.1601 and industry standards.

8. CLEC agrees that CenturyLink may discontinue accepting all traffic delivered over CLEC's trunking where CenturyLink experiences from Interconnected VoIP Provider a Denial of Service (DoS) attack or such Interconnected VoIP Provider traffic otherwise contributes to the degradation of CenturyLink's network or CenturyLink's ability to provide service to its customers. CLEC agrees to remove the inappropriate Interconnected VoIP Provider traffic from its network prior to CenturyLink's subsequent acceptance of CLEC's other traffic. Following any such event, CLEC will establish a separate trunk group for the Interconnected VoIP Provider's exclusive use for any subsequent Interconnected VoIP Provider traffic.

9. Where CLEC agrees to allow its interconnection trunks with CenturyLink to also be used for the routing of Interconnected VoIP Provider's traffic, CLEC will ensure traffic routed over such trunks is destined solely to the geographic area served by CenturyLink's switch as defined in the LERG.

10. CLEC agrees that CenturyLink will not be responsible to provide 911 services directly to the Interconnected VoIP Provider and that instead CLEC will be responsible as the Carrier Partner to provide such 911 services in accordance with applicable terms of the Agreement.

11. If CLEC chooses to obtain numbering from NANPA under a different OCN as an Interconnected VoIP Provider, they must have both a Commercial Interconnected VoIP Provider Numbering Agreement and this Amendment in order to route their Interconnected VoIP Provider traffic associated with that OCN on CLEC's interconnection trunks.