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Utility: Verizon To Exit Wireline Business Within 10 Years

by [Karl Bode](#) 05:46PM Thursday May 07 2015 Tipped by **TIGERON**

A utility company familiar with Verizon's business plans says Verizon has told it the company plans to exit the fixed-line broadband business entirely within the next ten years. [Stop The Cap](#) directs our attention to a [filing at the FCC](#) made by Florida Power & Light, urging the FCC to reject Verizon's decision to offload its Florida, Texas and California DSL, FiOS and POTS customers [to Frontier Communications](#).

□ "Verizon has made it clear it intends to be out of the wireline business within the next ten years, conveying this clear intent to regulated utilities in negotiations over joint use issues and explaining that Verizon no longer wants to be a pole owner," FP&L told the FCC. "Indeed, the current proposed [\$10.54 billion sale of Verizon facilities in Florida, Texas and California] proves this point."

For several years, Verizon's been either raising rates or refusing to repair aging DSL infrastructure as part of an obvious attempt to drive away [DSL customers it doesn't want to upgrade](#). But as the company increasingly focuses on more profitable (read: capped) wireless data service, it's making it clear it's not opposed to offloading its FiOS infrastructure (and its related union and regulatory "headaches" as well).

Verizon took particular heat when it used Sandy and other natural disasters as an excuse to [simply refuse to repair many DSL lines](#), instead driving users to a sub-standard wireless replacement service that failed to offer the same reliability or functionality. The telco has also made it clear it won't be expanding FiOS service to numerous cities (like Boston, Buffalo, Alexandria or Baltimore) looked over during the company's early deployment.

"All of the evidence shows that Verizon is abandoning its efforts to build out wireline broadband," argues the utility. "There should be no doubt that Verizon's strategy to abandon wireline service in favor of wireless service extends beyond New York and Florida and beyond storm damaged and rural areas."

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