



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 18-71
January 24, 2018

**DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL
OF LTC HOLDING COMPANY, INC. TO SKYBEST HOLDING COMPANY, LLC**

STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

WC Docket No. 18-10

Comments Due: February 7, 2018
Reply Comments Due: February 14, 2018

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau seeks comment from interested parties on an application filed by LTC Holding Company, Inc. (LTC) and SkyBest Holding Company, LLC (SkyBest) (collectively, Applicants), pursuant to section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and sections 63.03-04 of the Commission's rules, requesting approval to transfer control of LTC and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Loretto Telephone Company, Inc. (Loretto Telephone) and Loretto Communication Services, Inc. (Loretto LD), to SkyBest.¹

LTC, a Tennessee corporation, does not provide telecommunications services but is a holding company for its wholly owned subsidiaries, Loretto Telephone and Loretto LD, both Tennessee corporations doing business as Loretto Telecom. Loretto Telephone is a rural independent incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC) in Tennessee with approximately 3,479 access lines in portions of Lawrence, Giles, and Wayne counties in southern Tennessee. Loretto LD provides interexchange long distance (approximately 2,437 customers) and broadband services (approximately 2,026 customers) to customers in the Loretto Telephone service area.

SkyBest, a North Carolina limited liability company, does not provide telecommunications services but is a holding company that is wholly owned by SkyBest Communications, Inc. (SkyBest Communications) which, in turn, is wholly owned by SkyLine Telephone Membership Corporation (SkyLine). SkyLine, a North Carolina corporation and member-owned telephone cooperative, is a rural incumbent LEC providing service to approximately 27,343 access lines in Johnson County, Tennessee (Shady Valley exchange), and to the following counties and exchanges in North Carolina: Alleghany County (Scottville, Glade Creek, and Sparta exchanges), Ashe County

¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 214; 47 CFR §§ 63.03-04. Applicants also filed applications for the transfer of authorizations associated with international and wireless licenses. Any action on this domestic section 214 application is without prejudice to Commission action on other related, pending applications.

(Baldwin, Creston, Nathans Creek, and Lansing exchanges), Avery County (Banner Elk and Beech Mountain exchanges), and Watauga County (Sugar Grove and Watauga exchanges). SkyBest Communications, a North Carolina corporation, is a competitive LEC offering local exchange telephone service and exchange access services to approximately 2,921 access lines, predominately in areas bordering SkyLine's incumbent LEC operations. Applicants state that Skyline also wholly owns Chesnee Telephone Company, Incorporated (Chesnee Telephone), a rural independent incumbent LEC serving the Spartanburg and Cherokee counties in northwestern South Carolina, with approximately 2,750 access lines.² Applicants state that no single member owns or controls more than ten percent of Skyline's equity.

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, SkyBest will purchase all of LTC's outstanding common shares. LTC and its subsidiaries, Loretto Telephone and Loretto LD, will thereby become wholly owned subsidiaries of SkyBest, and indirect subsidiaries of SkyLine. Applicants assert that the proposed transaction is entitled to presumptive streamlined treatment under sections 63.03(b)(2)(iii) of the Commission's rules and that a grant of the application will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.³

Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of
LTC Holding Company, Inc. to SkyBest Holding Company, LLC
WC Docket No. 18-10 (filed Jan. 16, 2018).

GENERAL INFORMATION

The transfer of control identified herein has been found, upon initial review, to be acceptable for filing as a streamlined application. The Commission reserves the right to return any transfer application if, upon further examination, it is determined to be defective and not in conformance with the Commission's rules and policies. Pursuant to section 63.03(a) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 63.03(a), interested parties may file comments **on or before February 7, 2018**, and reply comments **on or before February 14, 2018**. Pursuant to section 63.52 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 63.52, commenters must serve a copy of comments on the Applicants no later than the above comment filing date. Unless otherwise notified by the Commission, the Applicants may transfer control on the 31st day after the date of this notice.

Pursuant to section 63.03 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 63.03, parties to this proceeding should file any documents using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS): <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>.

In addition, e-mail one copy of each pleading to each of the following:

- 1) Tracey Wilson, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, tracey.wilson@fcc.gov;
- 2) Greg Kwan, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, gregory.kwan@fcc.gov;
- 3) David Krech, International Bureau, david.krech@fcc.gov;

² See Application for a complete description of Skyline's operating affiliates and subsidiaries.

³ 47 CFR § 63.03(b)(2)(iii).

- 4) Sumita Mukhoty, International Bureau, Sumita.mukhoty@fcc.gov; and
- 5) Jim Bird, Office of General Counsel, jim.bird@fcc.gov.

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The proceeding in this Notice shall be treated as a “permit-but-disclose” proceeding in accordance with the Commission’s *ex parte* rules. Persons making *ex parte* presentations must file a copy of any written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the *ex parte* presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter’s written comments, memoranda or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during *ex parte* meetings are deemed to be written *ex parte* presentations and must be filed consistent with rule 1.1206(b), 47 CFR § 1.1206(b). Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission’s *ex parte* rules.

For further information, please contact Tracey Wilson at (202) 418-1394 or Greg Kwan at (202) 418-1191.

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