



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
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DA 18-369
April 12, 2018

**DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR
THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF
NORTHERN TELEPHONE COMPANY OF MINNESOTA, INC. AND
WILDERNESS VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.**

STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

WC Docket No. 18-105

Comments Due: April 26, 2018
Reply Comments Due: May 3, 2018

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau seeks comment from interested parties on an application filed by Robert G. Riddell (Mr. Riddell), Ruth E. Riddell (Mrs. Riddell), and Shane Young (Mr. Young) (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 consent to transfer control of Northern Telephone Company of Minnesota, Inc. (Northern Telephone) from Mr. Riddell to Mr. Young, and for the transfer of control of Wilderness Valley Telephone Company, Inc. (Wilderness Valley) from Mr. Riddell and Mrs. Riddell to Mr. Young.¹

Northern Telephone, a Minnesota corporation, provides local exchange service and exchange access service as an incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC) to less than 50 access lines in the Wawina exchange in and around the community of Wawina in Itasca County in rural northeastern Minnesota. Northern Telephone is wholly owned by Mr. Riddell. Wilderness Valley, also a Minnesota corporation, provides local exchange service and exchange access service as an incumbent LEC to less than 100 access lines in the Washington Forest exchange in and around the George Washington State Forest in Itasca and St. Louis Counties in rural northeastern Minnesota. Wilderness Valley is owned by Mr. Riddell (50 percent) and Mrs. Riddell (50 percent). Mr. Riddell has been the sole full-time employee of both Northern Telephone and Wilderness Valley.

Mr. Young, a U.S. citizen, has worked with Mr. Riddell on a contract basis to support the day-to-day operations and construction activities of Northern Telephone and Wilderness Valley. Mr. Young has no ownership interest in other entities that offer telecommunications services.

¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 214; 47 CFR §§ 63.03-04. Applicants filed a supplement to their Application on April 11, 2018.

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, Mr. Young will purchase all of the issued and outstanding stock of Northern Telephone from Mr. Riddell, and also purchase all of the issued and outstanding stock of Wilderness Valley from Mr. Riddell and Mrs. Riddell. Applicants state that, at closing, Mr. Young will own and control Northern Telephone and Wilderness Valley. Applicants assert that the proposed transaction is entitled to presumptive streamlined treatment under section 63.03 (b)(1)(ii) of the Commission's rules and that a grant of the application will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.²

Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of
Northern Telephone Company of Minnesota, Inc. and Wilderness Valley Telephone
Company, Inc., WC Docket No. 18-105 (filed Apr. 9, 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 April 26, 2018**, and reply comments **on or before May 3, 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) Dennis Johnson, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, dennis.johnson@fcc.gov;
- 3) Jim Bird, Office of General Counsel, jim.bird@fcc.gov.

People with Disabilities: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), 1-888-835-5322 (tty).

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

² 47 CFR § 63.03(b)(1)(ii).

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 Dennis Johnson at (202) 418-0809.

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