



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 17-825

August 31, 2017

DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR THE ACQUISITION OF ASSETS OF BRIGHT LONG DISTANCE, LTD.

STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

WC Docket No. 17-213

Comments Due: September 14, 2017

Reply Comments Due: September 21, 2017

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau seeks comment from interested parties on an application filed by Bright Long Distance, Ltd. (BLD), Com Net, Inc. (CNI), and 14 incumbent local exchange carriers (LECs) (Assignees)¹ (BLD, CNI, and Assignees collectively, Applicants), pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Section 63.03-04 of the Commission's rules, requesting consent to transfer portions of the retail, domestic customer base held by BLD (BLD Customers) to the Assignees.²

BLD, an Ohio limited liability corporation, resells long distance services to both retail and wholesale customers. CNI, an Ohio corporation, wholly owns BLD and provides telecommunications services to telephone companies and Internet service providers. CNI is owned by 22 shareholders, including the 14 incumbent LECs that are the Assignees and which provide service in multiple counties in Ohio. Applicants state that each of the 22 shareholders owns an equal share (4.545 percent) in CNI.

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, Assignees would acquire the BLD Customers located in their respective local exchange service areas. Applicants assert that the proposed transaction is

¹ The Assignees, each Ohio corporations, are: The Arthur Mutual Telephone Company, The Ayersville Telephone Company, The Benton Ridge Telephone Company, The Buckland Telephone Company, The Farmer's Mutual Telephone Company, The Fort Jennings Telephone Company, Glandorf Telephone Company, Inc., The Kalida Telephone Company, The Ottoville Mutual Telephone Company, The Ridgeville Telephone Company, Sherwood Mutual Telephone Association, Inc., Sycamore Telephone Company, The Vaughnsville Telephone Company, and The Wabash Mutual Telephone Company. Applicants state that no single individual or entity owns 10 percent or more of any of the Assignees with the exception of Sycamore Telephone Company, which has a U.S. trust, the Richard D. Ekleberry Living Trust, holding 49 percent (the trust is for a U.S. citizen) and Mrs. Esther L. Fry, a U.S. citizen, holding 50 percent.

² See 47 U.S.C. § 214; 47 CFR § 63.03-04.

entitled to presumptive streamlined treatment under Section 63.03(b)(2)(i) 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 Acquisition of Assets of
Bright Long Distance, Ltd., WC Docket No. 17-213 (filed Aug. 18, 2017).

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 September 14, 2017**, and reply comments **on or before September 21, 2017**. 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 in this proceeding 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) Myrva Charles, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, myrva.charles@fcc.gov;
- 2) Gregory Kwan, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, gregory.kwan@fcc.gov; and
- 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 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

³ 47 CFR § 63.03(b)(2)(i).

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 Myrva Charles at (202) 418-1506 or Gregory Kwan at (202) 418-1191.

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