



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
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Washington, D.C. 20554

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DA 03-65  
Released: January 10, 2003

**DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR CONSENT TO TRANSFER  
CONTROL OF SIOUX VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY FROM ALLIANCE  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION TO GOLDEN WEST  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED**

**WC Docket No. 03-02**

On December 12, 2002, Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (Golden West) and Alliance Telecommunications Corporation (Alliance) (collectively, Applicants) filed an application, pursuant to section 63.04 of the Commission's rules,<sup>1</sup> for consent to transfer control of Alliance's subsidiary, Sioux Valley Telephone Company (Sioux Valley), from Alliance to Golden West. Golden West currently owns 20% of the equity and 25% of the voting stock of Alliance. Alliance and Golden West have agreed, after all necessary approval are received, that Golden West will exchange all of its equity and voting stock interest in Alliance for all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Sioux Valley.

Applicants assert that this transaction is entitled to presumptive streamlined treatment pursuant to section 63.03(b)(2)(iii) of the Commission's rules because the applicants are incumbent independent local exchange carriers (LECs) that have, in combination, fewer than (2) percent of the nation's subscriber lines installed in the aggregate nationwide, and no overlapping or adjacent service areas.<sup>2</sup>

Alliance provides a variety of communications services to its customers through its various subsidiaries. Alliance is the ultimate parent of six incumbent local exchange carriers that own and operate approximately 31,445 access lines and provide communications services primarily to rural communities in South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The Alliance LECs are Sioux Valley Telephone Company (Sioux Valley), Hills, Loretel Systems, Inc. (Loretel), Felton Telephone Company, Inc. (Felton), Hager TeleCom, Inc. (Hager), and Sleepy Eye Telephone Company (Sleepy Eye). Alliance also is the ultimate parent of OU

<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 63.04; *see* 47 U.S.C. § 214.

<sup>2</sup> *See* 47 C.F.R. § 63.03(b)(2)(iii).

Connection, Inc., which provides telecommunications services through the use of calling cards.

Sioux Valley is a rural local exchange carrier serving approximately 5,893 access lines, which provides wireline local exchange service, exchange access service, and interexchange service to residential and business customers in South Dakota and Minnesota. In South Dakota, Sioux Valley serves the exchanges of Dell Rapids, Humboldt-Montrose, Colton, Valley Springs and North Larchwood, located in Minnehaha County in the southeastern part of the state. Sioux Valley serves approximately 4,549 access lines in these exchanges, while Minnehaha County has a population of approximately 148,281. Sioux Valley also serves the exchanges of Plankinton and Corsica in the counties of Aurora and Douglas, South Dakota, respectively, in south central South Dakota. Sioux Valley serves approximately 617 access lines in the Plankinton exchange, while the county of Aurora has a population of approximately 3,058. Sioux Valley services approximately 684 access lines in the Corsica exchange, while the county of Douglas has a population of approximately 3,458. In Minnesota, Sioux Valley serves the exchange of East Valley Springs located in Rock County in the southwestern corner of the state. Sioux Valley serves a total of approximately 43 access lines in the East Valley Springs exchange, while Rock County has a population of approximately 9,721.

Golden West is a rural local exchange carrier that provides wireline local exchange service, exchange access service, and interexchange service to residential and business customers in South Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming. Golden West serves 27 exchanges in the western half of South Dakota, with approximately 16,338 access lines in South Dakota, 91 access lines in Nebraska and 29 access lines in Wyoming. Golden West serves a total of approximately 16,458 access lines in its exchanges.

Applicants state that the proposed transaction and related transfer of control will advance the public interest because it will lead to operating efficiencies and more efficient delivery of services for the combined entities. According to Applicants, the proposed transaction will be transparent to the customers of the companies, who will continue to be served by the same experienced personnel serving them today.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The transfer of control application 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 of control application if, upon further examination, it is determined to be defective and not in conformance with the Commission's rules and policies. Interested parties may file **comments within 14 days** and **reply comments within 21 days** of this notice.<sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise notified by the Commission, an applicant is permitted to transfer control of the

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<sup>3</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 63.03(a).

domestic lines or authorization to operate on the 31<sup>st</sup> day after the date of this notice.<sup>4</sup> Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 Fed. Reg. 24121 (1998).

Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to [ecfs@fcc.gov](mailto:ecfs@fcc.gov), and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address>." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply.

Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appear in the caption of this proceeding, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). The Commission's contractor, Vistrionix, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110, Washington, D.C. 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

**In addition, one copy of each pleading must be sent to each of the following:**

- (1) the Commission's duplicating contractor, Qualex International, 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room CY-B402, Washington, D.C. 20554; e-mail: [qualexint@aol.com](mailto:qualexint@aol.com); facsimile: (202) 863-2898; phone: (202) 863-2893.
- (2) Tracey Wilson, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 5-C437, Washington, D.C. 20554; e-mail: [twilson@fcc.gov](mailto:twilson@fcc.gov), and

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<sup>4</sup> Such authorization is conditioned upon receipt of any other necessary approvals from the Commission in connection with the proposed transaction.

- (3) Dennis Johnson, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 6-A461, Washington, D.C. 20554; e-mail: [dcjohnso@fcc.gov](mailto:dcjohnso@fcc.gov), and
- (4) William Dever, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room , 5-C266, Washington, D.C. 20554; e-mail: [wdever@fcc.gov](mailto:wdever@fcc.gov); and
- (5) Imani Ellis-Cheek, Telecommunications Division, International Bureau, 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 6-A739, Washington, D.C. 20554; email: [iellis@fcc.gov](mailto:iellis@fcc.gov); and
- (6) Nandan Joshi, Office of General Counsel, 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 8-A820, Washington, D.C. 20554; e-mail: [njoshi@fcc.gov](mailto:njoshi@fcc.gov).

Filings and comments are also available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-A257, Washington, DC, 20554. They may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-B402, Washington, DC, 20554, telephone 202-863-2893, facsimile 202-863-2898, or via e-mail [qualexint@aol.com](mailto:qualexint@aol.com).

For further information, please contact Tracey Wilson, at (202) 418-1394, Dennis Johnson (202) 418-0809, or William Dever, Competition Policy, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-1578.

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