



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 14-1439
Released: October 2, 2014

DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF TRI COUNTY TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION, INC. TO BHT HOLDINGS, INC.

STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

WC Docket No. 14-163

Comments Due: October 16, 2014
Reply Comments Due: October 23, 2014

On September 23, 2014, Tri County Telephone Association, Inc. (Tri County), together with its wholly owned subsidiaries, TCT West, Inc. (TCT West) and Tri Tel, Inc. (Tri Tel), and BHT Holdings, Inc. (BHT Holdings) (collectively, Applicants) filed an application pursuant to section 63.03 of the Commission's rules to transfer control of Tri County, TCT West, and Tri Tel to BHT Holdings.¹

Tri County is a cooperative association organized under the laws of Wyoming. Tri County and TCT West are incumbent local exchange carriers (LECs) serving about 6000 access lines in north central Wyoming. TCT West also serves a small number of access lines in south central Montana through facilities located in Wyoming. Tri Tel is a competitive LEC in Wyoming and Montana.² Applicants state that BHT Holdings, a Wyoming corporation, does not currently provide telecommunication service and has no affiliates that provide telecommunications service. Applicants further state that BHT Holdings is owned by the following U.S. citizens and entity: Neil Schlenker (31 percent); Kelly Fowler (25 percent); Brent Cohen (13 percent); Colonnade Venture Partners, LLC (31 percent). Eric J. Steinmann, a U.S. citizen, owns 76 percent of Colonnade Venture Partners, LLC.

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, BHT Holdings will acquire 100 percent of the outstanding equity of Tri County, TCT West, and Tri Tel. Applicants assert that the proposed transaction

¹ 47 C.F.R § 63.03; *see* 47 U.S.C. § 214. Applicants are also filing applications for transfer of control associated with authorizations for international and wireless services. Any action on this domestic section 214 application is without prejudice to Commission action on other related, pending applications.

² Applicants state that Tri County provides Voice over Internet Protocol services to about 1500 customers in its own service territory and in south-central Montana. Tri County provides resold wireless services to residential and business customers in Wyoming and portions of Montana. Through its wholly owned subsidiary TCT Investments-Cellular, LLC, Tri County owns a 34 percent limited partnership interest in Wyoming 1 – Park Limited Partnership, a Verizon Wireless, Inc. affiliate.

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.³

Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of Tri County Telephone Association, Inc. to BHT Holdings, Inc., WC Docket No. 14-163 (filed Sept. 23, 2014).

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 October 16, 2014**, and reply comments **on or before October 23, 2014**. Pursuant to section 63.52 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 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://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/>.

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

- 1) Myrva Freeman, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, myrva.freeman@fcc.gov;
- 2) Jodie May, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, jodie.may@fcc.gov;
- 3) David Krech, Policy Division, International Bureau, david.krech@fcc.gov;
- 4) 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), (202) 418-0432 (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 citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant

³ 47 C.F.R. § 63.03(b)(1)(ii).

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 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b). Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's ex parte rules.

For further information, please contact Myrva Freeman at (202) 418-1506 or Jodie May at (202) 418-0913.

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