



# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Federal Communications Commission**  
**445 12<sup>th</sup> St., S.W.**  
**Washington, D.C. 20554**

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**DA 15-975**  
**Released: August 28, 2015**

**COMMENTS INVITED ON APPLICATION OF MID-PLAINS  
RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC. TO DISCONTINUE DOMESTIC  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES**

**WC Docket No. 15-205**  
**Comp. Pol. File No. 1238**

**Comments Due: September 28, 2015**

**Section 214 Application**

**Applicant: Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**

On July 31, 2015, **Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.** (MPRTC or Applicant), located at **411 N. Hale Street, Tulia, TX 79088**, filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) requesting authority, under section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214, and section 63.71 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 63.71, to discontinue certain domestic telecommunications services within the company's service area including portions of Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Floyd, Randall and Swisher Counties in northwest Texas (Service Areas).<sup>1</sup>

MPRTC indicates that it currently offers select operator services including Collect Call, Bill to Third Number, Bill to Credit Card, Line Status Verification/Busy Line Verification, and Busy Line Interrupt services in the Service Areas (Affected Services). MPRTC asserts, however, that there has been a lack of customer demand for the Affected Services. Accordingly, MPRTC submits that it made a business decision to discontinue the Affected Services in the Service Areas on or after October 1, 2015, upon completion of all necessary federal and state regulatory approvals. MPRTC indicates that it sent notice of the proposed discontinuance to all affected customers by U.S. Mail on July 31, 2015. The Applicant maintains that customers will not be adversely affected by the proposed discontinuance because there have been no instances of a customer utilizing the Affected Services for the past 36 months. MPRTC asserts that it is an incumbent local exchange carrier and considered dominant with respect to the services it proposes to discontinue.

In accordance with section 63.71(d) of the Commission's rules, MPRTC's application will be deemed granted automatically on October 27, 2015, the 60th day after the release date of this public

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<sup>1</sup> See Section 63.71 Application of Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. for Authority to Discontinue Certain Services, WC Docket No. 15-205 (filed July 31, 2015), <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/comment/view?id=60001096471> (Application).

notice, unless the Commission notifies MPRTC that the grant will not be automatically effective.<sup>2</sup> We note that the date on which an application for Commission authorization is deemed granted may be different from the date on which applicants are authorized to discontinue, reduce, or impair service. In the Application, MPRTC indicates that it plans to discontinue the Affected Services in the Service Areas on or after October 1, 2015, upon completion of all necessary federal and state regulatory approvals. Accordingly, pursuant to section 63.71(d), and the terms of the Application, absent further Commission action, MPRTC may discontinue, reduce or impair the Affected Services in the Service Areas on or after **October 27, 2015**, in accordance with MPRTC's filed representations. The Commission normally will authorize proposed discontinuances of service unless it is shown that customers or other end users would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier, or that the public convenience and necessity would be otherwise adversely affected.

Comments objecting to this application must be filed with the Commission on or before **September 28, 2015**. Such comments should refer to **WC Docket No. 15-205 and Comp. Pol. File No. 1238**. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance on the commenter, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies.<sup>3</sup> Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs>. Filers should follow the instructions provided on the Web site for submitting comments. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. In completing the transmittal screen, filers should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket number.

Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission. All hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A325, Washington, D.C. 20554. The filing hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes and boxes 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, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Copies of the comments may also be sent to the Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room 5-C140, Washington, D.C. 20554, Attention: Carmell Weathers, or faxed to the FCC at (202) 418-1413, Attention: Carmell Weathers. In addition, comments should be served upon the Applicant.

This proceeding is considered a "permit but disclose" proceeding for purposes of the Commission's *ex parte* rules.<sup>4</sup> Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves 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

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<sup>2</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 63.71(d) (stating that an application filed by a dominant carrier "shall be automatically granted on the 60th day after its filing with the Commission without any Commission notification to the applicant unless the Commission has notified the applicant that the grant will not be automatically effective.").

<sup>3</sup> See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

<sup>4</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200 *et seq.*

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).

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](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (888) 835-5322 (tty).

For further information, contact Carmell Weathers, (202) 418-2325 (voice), [Carmell.Weathers@fcc.gov](mailto:Carmell.Weathers@fcc.gov), or Rodney McDonald, (202) 418-7513 (voice), [Rodney.McDonald@fcc.gov](mailto:Rodney.McDonald@fcc.gov), of the Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau. The tty number is (888) 835-5322. For further information on procedures regarding section 214 please visit <https://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/domestic-section-214-discontinuance-service>.

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