



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, D.C. 20554

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COMMENTS INVITED ON APPLICATION OF GRAND RIVER MUTUAL TELEPHONE CORPORATION DBA GRM NETWORKS FOR AUTHORITY TO DISCONTINUE CERTAIN DOMESTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

WC Docket No. 16-308
GN Docket No. 13-5
Comp. Pol. File No. 1350

Comments Due: October 31 2016

Section 214 Application

Applicants: Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation DBA GRM Networks

On September 1, 2016, Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation DBA GRM Networks (collectively, GRM or Applicant) filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission),¹ requesting authority, under section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,² and section 63.71 of the Commission's rules,³ to discontinue Off-Premises Extension Service, Firebar Service, and Local Exchange Service (Affected Services) in Missouri and Iowa (collectively, Service Areas). GRM states that the proposed discontinuance is the result of an effort to improve its network through the installation of fiber in certain exchanges in the Service Areas.

GRM indicates that it currently offers the Affected Services in the Service Areas. GRM explains that Off-Premises Extension Service is for telephone stations that require a Central Office connection due to distance from the primary line. GRM states that Firebar Service is provided when Central Office Equipment allows for customers to dial a single telephone number which rings simultaneously to multiple volunteer Fire Department personnel, all of whom are joined to the call upon answering. GRM explains that it provides Local Exchange Service to customers with no power source at the end user premises, either through commercial electrical power or through any other means. GRM notes that it plans to discontinue the Affected Services in the Iowa exchanges of Garden Grove and Davis City and the Missouri exchanges of Jamesport, Spickard and Barnard. GRM emphasizes, however, that it plans to discontinue only the Firebar Service in the Missouri exchanges of Galt, Chula and Laredo. GRM clarifies that the Missouri exchanges of Galt, Laredo and Chula will not be transitioned to fiber facilities at this time. GRM states that it plans to discontinue the Affected Services in the Service Areas on or about November 30, 2016.

¹ The carrier's address is listed as 1001 Kentucky Street, Princeton, MO 64673.

² 47 U.S.C. § 214.

³ 47 CFR § 63.71.

GRM specifies that it plans to begin network improvements through installation of fiber in the Iowa exchanges of Garden Grove and Davis City, and the Missouri exchanges of Barnard and portions of Jamesport and Spickard. GRM explains that, in conjunction with the newly deployed fiber, it will discontinue all of the Affected Services to customers cut over to fiber in the aforementioned exchanges. GRM also notes that, as a result of a planned switch collapse, the planned service discontinuance is limited to Firebar Service in the Missouri exchanges of Galt, Laredo and Chula. GRM explains that, after the switch collapse, the equipment in the Central Office will no longer be compatible with the Firebar equipment. GRM reiterates that its proposed discontinuance stems from its desire to improve service to its customers through deployment of fiber facilities and will not adversely affect customers. GRM notes that less than one percent of affected customers currently subscribe to distant Off-Premises Extension Service and there are no customers in the affected areas who lack a power source.

GRM states that it is directly contacting the few customers who currently subscribe to the Affected Services to ensure that alternative services are available to the extent feasible. GRM notes, for example, that Off-Premises Extension Service may be substituted by installation of a second line which will allow an incoming call to ring at both the primary and secondary lines. GRM states that the Firebar Service can be substituted with a similar service that provides for the placed call to ring at multiple Volunteer Fire Department numbers, and the connection made with the first person to answer the call. GRM indicates that Firebar Service is an optional service for GRM customers, all of whom have access to 911 dialing for emergency services. GRM emphasizes that these substitute services are similar in function and will be offered at similar rates to the services to be discontinued.

GRM states that it mailed notices to affected customers on September 1, 2016. GRM explains that customers who receive paper bills from GRM received written notice by bill message and customers who have elected paperless billing received written notice electronically through email notification. GRM states that it deemed the bill message the most economic method of reaching its rural customers. GRM notes that the first page of both the paper and the electronic bills displayed text to alert customers to the important notice included with their bill in order to bring sufficient attention to the notice. GRM asserts that it is an incumbent local exchange carrier that is considered a dominant carrier with respect to the services that it proposes to discontinue.

In accordance with section 63.71(e) of the Commission's rules, GRM's application will be deemed granted automatically on November 29, 2016, the 60th day after the release date of this Public Notice, unless the Commission notifies GRM that the grant will not be automatically effective.⁴ We note that the date on which an application for Commission authorization is deemed granted may be different from the date on which an applicant is authorized to discontinue, reduce, or impair service. In the Application, GRM indicates that it plans to discontinue the Affected Services in the Service Areas on or after November 30, 2016, pending regulatory approval. Accordingly, pursuant to section 63.71(e), and the terms outlined in the application, absent further Commission action, GRM may discontinue the Affected Service(s) in the Service Areas on or after **November 30, 2016**, in accordance with GRM's filed representations. For purposes of computation of time when filing a petition for reconsideration, application for review, or petition for judicial review of the Commission's decision, the date of "public notice" shall be the latter of the auto grant date stated above in this Public Notice, or the release date of any further public notice or order announcing final Commission action, as applicable. Should no petitions for reconsideration, applications for review, or petitions for judicial review be timely filed, the proceeding listed in this Public Notice shall be terminated, and the docket will be closed.

⁴ See 47 CFR § 63.71(e) (stating, in relevant part, that an application filed by a dominant carrier "shall be automatically granted on the 60th day... unless the Commission has notified the applicant that the grant will not be automatically effective.").

Comments addressing this application must be filed with the Commission on or before **October 31, 2016**. Such comments should refer to the following WC Docket No. and Comp. Pol. File No.: **WC Docket No. 16-308** and **Comp. Pol. File No. 1350**. Comments should include specific information about the impact of the 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.⁵ 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.

These proceedings are considered "permit but disclose" proceedings for purposes of the Commission's *ex parte* rules.⁶ Participants 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 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 or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (888) 835-5322 (tty).

⁵ See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

⁶ 47 CFR § 1.1200 *et seq.*

For further information, contact Carmell Weathers, (202) 418-2325 (voice), Carmell.Weathers@fcc.gov, of the Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, or Kimberly Jackson, (202) 418-7393 (voice), Kimberly.Jackson@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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