**DA 19-619**

**July 2, 2019**

**DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF BEALLS COMMUNICATION GROUP, LLC TO**

**COMBINED PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS, LLC**

**NON-STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED**

 **WC Docket No. 19-182**

**Comments Due: July 16, 2019**

**Reply Comments Due: July 23, 2019**

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) seeks comment from interested parties on an application filed by Bealls Communication Group, LLC (Bealls) and Combined Public Communications, LLC (Combined Public) (collectively, Applicants), pursuant to section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and sections 63.03-04 of the Commission’s rules, requesting consent for the transfer of control of Bealls to Combined Public.[[1]](#footnote-3) Applicants consummated the transaction without prior Commission approval on May 31, 2017.[[2]](#footnote-4)

Bealls, a Georgia limited liability company, provided inmate telephone services to correctional facilities in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. Combined Public, a Delaware limited liability company, provides inmate communications services and is certified in Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Wyoming.

Combined Public is a wholly owned subsidiary of Client Telephone Solutions, LLC (Client Telephone Solutions), a Delaware limited liability and holding company, which, in turn, is majority owned (89.84 percent) by CPC Engle Holdings, Inc. (CPC Engle Holdings), a Delaware corporation and holding company. CPC Engle Holdings is wholly owned by Cathie Engle, a U.S. Citizen. Applicants state no other person or entity holds a 10 percent or greater interest in Client Telephone Solutions. Applicants further state that neither Combined Public, Client Telephone Solutions, CPC Engle Holdings, nor Cathie Engle hold a 10 percent or greater interest in any other provider of domestic telecommunications services.

Pursuant to an agreement effective on May 31, 2017, Combined Public acquired all the membership interests in Bealls without prior Commission approval. Applicants state that, since that time, customers continue to be serviced by Combined Public on substantially the same terms and conditions as previously provided by Bealls. Because the transaction is more complex than usual, and in order to analyze whether the proposed transaction would serve the public interest, the application will not be streamlined.[[3]](#footnote-5)

Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of

Bealls Communication Group, LLC to Combined Public Communications, LLC,

WC Docket No. 19-182 (filed June 25, 2019).

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The application identified herein has been found, upon initial review, to be acceptable for filing. The Commission reserves the right to return any 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 and petitions **on or** **before July 16, 2019,** and reply comments or oppositions to petitions **on or before July 23, 2019**. Comments may be filed using the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by paper.  All filings must be addressed to the Commission’s Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

* Electronic Filers:  Comments may be filed electronically by accessing ECFS at <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>.
* Paper Filers:  Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing.  Paper 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 hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission’s Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th St., SW, Room TW-A325, Washington, DC, 20554.  The filing hours are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners.  All 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 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD, 20701.
	+ U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington DC, 20554.

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 and Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 1-888-835-5322 (tty).

**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;
3. David Krech, International Bureau; david.krech@fcc.gov;
4. Sumita Mukhoty, International Bureau; sumita.mukhoty@fcc.gov; and
5. Jim Bird, Office of General Counsel, jim.bird@fcc.gov.

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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 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.

To allow the Commission to consider fully all substantive issues regarding the application in as timely and efficient a manner as possible, petitioners and commenters should raise all issues in their initial filings. New issues may not be raised in responses or replies.[[4]](#footnote-6) A party or interested person seeking to raise a new issue after the pleading cycle has closed must show good cause why it was not possible for it to have raised the issue previously. Submissions after the pleading cycle has closed that seek to raise new issues based on new facts or newly discovered facts should be filed within 15 days after such facts are discovered. Absent such a showing of good cause, any issues not timely raised may be disregarded by the Commission.

For further information, please contact Myrva Charles at (202) 418-1506 or Gregory Kwan at (202) 418-1191.

**FCC**

1. *See* 47 U.S.C. § 214; 47 CFR §§ 63.03-04. Applicants also filed applications for the transfer of authorizations associated with international services. On June 27, 2019, Applicants filed a supplement to their domestic section 214 application. Any action on the domestic section 214 application is without prejudice to Commission action on other related, pending applications. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
2. On June 26, 2019, the Bureau granted the Applicants’ request for special temporary authority to authorize Combined Public to continue providing service for 60 days pending approval of the domestic section 214 application. A grant of the application would be without prejudice to any enforcement action by the Commission for non-compliance with the Act or the Commission's rules. Letter from Lance J.M. Steinhart, Counsel to Applicants, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 19-182 (filed June 25, 2019). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
3. 47 CFR § 63.03(c)(1)(v). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
4. *See* 47 CFR § 1.45(c). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)