



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
45 L St., N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500  
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>

DA 23-1057  
Released: November 8, 2023

**DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF  
CAMPTI-PLEASANT HILL TELEPHONE CO., INC. AND  
CP-TEL NETWORKS SERVICES, INC. TO H.N.G. HOLDINGS, L.L.C.**

**NON-STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED**

**WC Docket No. 23-346**

**Comments Due: November 22, 2023**  
**Reply Comment Due: November 29, 2023**

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau seeks comment from interested parties on an application filed by Epic Touch Co., Inc. (Epic Touch) and H.N.G. Holdings, L.L.C. (HNG Holdings) (together, Applicants), pursuant to section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and sections 63.03-04 of the Commission's rules,<sup>1</sup> requesting consent to transfer control of CP-TEL Holdings, Inc. (CP-TEL Holdings) and its wholly-owned subsidiaries Campti-Pleasant Hill Telephone Co., Inc. (Campti-Pleasant Hill) and CP-TEL Network Services, Inc. (CPTN) from Epic Touch to HNG Holdings.<sup>2</sup>

Epic Touch, a holding company incorporated in Kansas, owns and operates the following entities: (1) the Elkhart Telephone Company, a Kansas corporation and rural incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC) that provides and broadband services in and around the community of Elkhart, Kansas; and (2) CP TEL Holdings, Inc., (CP TEL Holdings), a Louisiana corporation that serves as a holding company.<sup>3</sup> CP Tel Holdings, in turn, wholly owns the following entities: (a) Campi-Pleasant Hill, a Louisiana corporation and rural LEC that is an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) and provides local exchange and exchange access services in four exchanges (the Campti, Pleasant Hill, Pelican and Creston exchanges) in portions of the Natchitoches, Sabine, DeSoto, and Red River Parishes in northwestern Louisiana (approximately 1,500 access lines in its Louisiana service area);<sup>4</sup> and (b)

<sup>1</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 214(a); 47 CFR §§ 63.03-04.

<sup>2</sup> Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of Epic Touch Co., Inc., to H.N.G. Holdings, L.L.C., WC Docket No. 23-346 (filed Oct. 12, 2023) (Application). Applicants filed a supplement to their application on October 18, 2023. Letter from Gerard J. Duffy, Counsel for H.N.G. Holdings, L.L.C., to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, WC Docket No. 23-346 (filed on October 18, 2023) (Supplement). Applicants also filed an application for the transfer of authorizations associated with international services. Any action on this domestic section 214 application is without prejudice to Commission action on other related, pending applications.

<sup>3</sup> Application at 1.

CPTN, a Louisiana corporation that provides competitive LEC services (approximately 2,100 access lines) in portions of Natchitoches, Sabine, DeSoto, and Red River Parishes in northwestern Louisiana.<sup>5</sup>

HNG Holdings, a Louisiana limited liability company, is a holding company that owns 100% of the ownership and control of: (1) Northeast Louisiana Telephone Company, Inc. (Northeast Louisiana Telephone), a Louisiana corporation and rural LEC that provides local exchange and exchange access services in two exchanges (the Collinston and Bonita/Jones exchanges) in portions of Morehouse Parish in northeastern Louisiana (approximately 1,100 access lines); and (2) Northeast Long Distance, LLC (Northeast LD), a Louisiana limited liability company that provides long distance toll services in Morehouse and Ouachita Parishes.<sup>6</sup> Northeast Louisiana Telephone wholly owns Northeast Telephone Services, Inc. (Northeast Services), a Louisiana corporation that provides competitive LEC and other services in portions of Morehouse and Ouachita Parishes in northeastern Louisiana (less than 175 competitive LEC access lines).<sup>7</sup> HNG Holdings is held by the following U.S. citizens and trusts: William Michael George (64% voting and equity); Erin E. George Minority Trust (12% voting and equity interest); Christine M. George Minority Trust (12% voting and equity interest); Douglas M. George Minority Trust (12% voting and equity interest).<sup>8</sup> Applicants state that no other individual or entity directly or indirectly owns or controls ten percent or more of HNG Holdings.<sup>9</sup>

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, HNG Holdings would purchase from Epic Touch all of the issued and outstanding stock of CP TEL Holdings.<sup>10</sup> As a result, HNG Holdings will wholly own Campti-Pleasant Hill and CPTN.<sup>11</sup> Applicants state that both Campti-Pleasant Hill and CPTN will remain in existence post-transaction.<sup>12</sup> Applicants further state that the service areas of Campti-Pleasant Hill and CPTN in northwestern Louisiana do not overlap, and are not adjacent to, the service areas of Northeastern Louisiana Telephone, Northeast Services, and Northeast LD in northeastern Louisiana.<sup>13</sup>

Applicants request streamlined treatment of the proposed transaction under the Commission's rules and assert that a grant of the application would serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity. Because the proposed transaction is more complex than those accepted for streamlined

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<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 1-2; Supplement at 1. Applicants state that Campti-Pleasant Hill participates in the Lifeline program and the Affordable Connectivity Program. Supplement at 3.

<sup>5</sup> Application at 2.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* at 8.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* at 9.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* at 3.

treatment, and in order to analyze whether the proposed transaction would serve the public interest, we accept the Application for non-streamlined processing.<sup>14</sup>

Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of  
Epic Touch Co., Inc. to H.N.G. Holdings, L.L.C.,  
WC Docket No. 23-346 (filed Oct.13, 2023).

## **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 **on or before November 22, 2023**, and reply comments **on or before November 29, 2023**. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by paper.

- **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. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, filers must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number.
  - Filings can be sent by commercial overnight courier or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail.<sup>15</sup> All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.
  - 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 45 L Street, NE, Washington, DC 20554.

**People with Disabilities:** We ask that requests for accommodations be made as soon as possible in order to allow the agency to satisfy such requests whenever possible. Send an email to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530.

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

- 1) Tracey Wilson, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, [tracey.wilson@fcc.gov](mailto:tracey.wilson@fcc.gov);
- 2) Dennis Johnson, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, [dennis.johnson@fcc.gov](mailto:dennis.johnson@fcc.gov);
- 3) David Krech, Office of International Affairs, [david.krech@fcc.gov](mailto:david.krech@fcc.gov); and
- 4) Jim Bird, Office of General Counsel, [jim.bird@fcc.gov](mailto:jim.bird@fcc.gov).

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<sup>14</sup> 47 CFR § 63.03(c)(1)(v).

<sup>15</sup> Effective March 19, 2020, and until further notice, the Commission no longer accepts any hand or messenger delivered filings. This is a temporary measure taken to help protect the health and safety of individuals, and to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19. See *FCC Announces Closure of FCC Headquarters Open Window and Change in Hand-Delivery Policy*, Public Notice, 35 FCC Rcd 2788 (OS 2020).

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.<sup>16</sup> 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 Dennis Johnson at [dennis.johnson@fcc.gov](mailto:dennis.johnson@fcc.gov).

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<sup>16</sup> See 47 CFR § 1.45(c).