



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
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DA 23-1170  
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## DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION GRANTED 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.

WC Docket No. 23-346

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau grants the 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>

On November 8, 2022, the Bureau released a public notice seeking comment on the Application.<sup>3</sup> The Bureau did not receive comments or petitions in opposition to the Application.

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 telecommunication services 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>4</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

<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 supplements to their application on October 18, 2023, November 22, 2023 and November 28, 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) (Oct. 18 Supplement); 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) (Nov. 22 Supplement); and Letter from Tony S. Lee, Counsel for Epic Touch Co., Inc., and 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 November 28, 2023) (Nov. 28 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> *Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Campti-Pleasant Hill Telephone Co., Inc. and CP-Tel Networks Services, Inc. to H.N.G. Holdings, L.L.C.*, WC Docket No. 23-346, Public Notice, DA 23-1057 (WCB 2023) (*Public Notice*).

<sup>4</sup> Application at 1.

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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>5</sup> and (b) 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>6</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>7</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>8</sup> HNG Holdings is held by the following U.S. citizens and trusts: William Michael George (72% voting and equity); Erin E. George Minority Trust (14% voting and equity interest); and the Douglas M. George Minority Trust (14% voting and equity interest).<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>

We find, upon consideration of the record, that the proposed transfer will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.<sup>13</sup> Pursuant to section 214(a) of the Act, 47 U.S.C. § 214(a) and sections 0.91, 0.291, 63.03, and 63.04 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.91, 0.291, 63.03, and 63.04, we grant the Application. Pursuant to section 1.103 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 1.103, the consent granted herein is effective upon the release of this Public Notice. Petitions for reconsideration under section 1.106 or applications for review under section 1.115 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.106, 1.115, may be filed within 30 days of the date of this Public Notice.

For further information, please contact Dennis Johnson, Wireline Competition Bureau, (202) 418-0809.

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<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 1-2; Oct. 18 Supplement at 1. Applicants state that Campti-Pleasant Hill participates in the Lifeline program and the Affordable Connectivity Program. Oct. 18 Supplement at 3.

<sup>6</sup> Application at 2.

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

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

<sup>9</sup> Michael William George will have *de jure* control of HNG and serves as the Trustee of the two trusts. Applicants updated the post-consummation ownership information in a supplement. Nov. 22 Supplement at 1-2.

<sup>10</sup> Application at 9.

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

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

<sup>13</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 214(a); 47 CFR § 63.03. Applicants attest that they will not close the transaction prior to January 1, 2024. Application at 3; Nov. 28 Supplement at 1.