



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

News Media Information 202-418-0500
Internet: www.fcc.gov

DA 25-1050

Released: December 11, 2025

**DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN ASSETS
OF SUNSET DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS, LLC BY SCOTT COUNTY TELEPHONE
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

NON-STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

WC Docket No. 25-290

Comments Due: December 26, 2025

Reply Comments Due: January 2, 2026

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau seeks comment from interested parties on an application filed by Sunset Digital Communications, LLC (Sunset Digital) and Scott County Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (SCTC) (together, Applicants), pursuant to section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and section 63.04 of the Commission's rules,¹ requesting Commission approval for the acquisition of Sunset Digital's Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF II) support obligations for certain designated Census Block Groups within Virginia Study Area Code (SAC) 199025 and within Tennessee SAC 299033 (Assigned CBGs).² Sunset Digital is not transferring the entirety of its CAF II obligations in Virginia and Tennessee, and will retain and continue to meet its CAF II obligations in the CBGs not being transferred.³

Sunset Digital, a Delaware limited liability company that provides telecommunications and broadband services, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Point Broadband Fiber Holding, LLC (Point Broadband), a Fiber-to-the-Premise provider.⁴ Point Broadband and its affiliates offer telecommunications and broadband services to residential and commercial customers in Alabama, Michigan, New York, Tennessee, and Virginia.⁵ Sunset Digital does not provide local exchange service in the Assigned CBGs.⁶ Applicants state that Sunset Digital, a designated Eligible Telecommunications

¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 214(a); 47 CFR § 63.04.

² Domestic Section 214 Application for the Acquisition of Certain Assets of Sunset Digital Communications, LLC by Scott County Telephone Cooperative, Inc., WC Docket No. 25-290 (filed Sept. 17, 2025) (Application). Applicants filed a supplement to the Application on October 13, 2025. Letter from Vernon E. Inge Jr., Counsel for SCTC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 25-290 (filed Oct. 13, 2025) (Supplement). Any action on the Application is without prejudice to Commission action on other, related pending applications.

³ Application at 1. SCTC is not acquiring any of Sunset Digital's telecommunications assets, services, or customers outside the Assigned CBGs. *Id.* at 2-3.

⁴ Application at 3.

⁵ *Id.* at 3-4.

⁶ *Id.* at 4.

Carrier (ETC) in Virginia and Tennessee, receives CAF II support in the Assigned CBGs.⁷

SCTC, a Virginia nonstock corporation, is a non-profit telecommunications cooperative that serves Scott, Russell, Wise, Dickenson, and Lee counties in Virginia, the city of Norton, Virginia, and Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins, and Union counties in Tennessee.⁸ SCTC uses its own fiber facilities, along with some leased fiber facilities, to offer domestic telecommunications and broadband service throughout its network.⁹ Applicants state that SCTC, a designated ETC, receives Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) support in Virginia and Tennessee near the Assigned CBGs,¹⁰ and Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM) II support in its LEC area in Virginia.¹¹ Applicants assert that both Sunset Digital and SCTC currently serve 490 locations or 22.39% of the locations in the Assigned CBGs.¹²

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, Sunset Digital agreed to assign to SCTC the assets acquired with CAF II support, unexpended CAF II support, and the right to receive future CAF II support in the Assigned CBGs.¹³ As such, SCTC agreed to acquire those assets, accept those funds, and assume Sunset Digital's post-closing CAF II obligations in the Assigned CBGs, subject to any required regulatory approvals.¹⁴

Applicants assert that a grant of the Application would serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.¹⁵ Because the proposed transaction would involve the transfer and assumption of Universal Service Fund high-cost mechanism obligations, in order to analyze whether the proposed transaction would serve the public interest, we accept the Application for non-streamlined processing.¹⁶

Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Acquisition of Certain Assets of Sunset Digital Communications, LLC by Scott County Telephone Cooperative, Inc., WC Docket No. 25-290 (filed Sept. 17, 2025).

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 reply comments on or before the dates indicated on the first page of this document. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing

⁷ *Id.* at 4, 12-14. Applicants also state that Sunset Digital participates in the Lifeline program, and SCTC will continue to do so in the Assigned CBGs post-consummation of the transaction. *Id.* at 15.

⁸ *Id.* at 5, 16. No individual or entity holds a direct or indirect equity or voting interest of 10% or more of SCTC, and other than what is noted in the Application, SCTC does not hold a 10% or greater equity or voting interest in any other provider of domestic telecommunications services. *Id.* at 14, 22-23.

⁹ Application at 5. SCTC operates as an incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC) in Scott County, Virginia, and as a competitive LEC in all other service territories. Supplement at 1.

¹⁰ Application at 5-6, 12-14. SCTC also participates in the Lifeline program. *Id.* at 15.

¹¹ *Id.* at 13-14.

¹² *Id.* at 10.

¹³ *Id.* at 6, 23.

¹⁴ *Id.* at 6-7. Applicants state that Sunset Digital also agreed to provide SCTC with its engineering plans, pole attachment rights, power, real property, and transport services that it has created for the Assigned CBGs, and to transfer customer accounts to SCTC. *Id.* at 7.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 9-12.

¹⁶ 47 CFR § 63.03(c)(1)(v).

System (ECFS).

- Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/>.
- Paper Filers: 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 courier, or by the U.S. Postal Service. **All filings must be addressed to the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.**
 - Hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary are accepted between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. by the FCC's mailing contractor at 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701. 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 courier deliveries (any deliveries not by the U.S. Postal Service) must be sent to 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.
 - Filings sent by U.S. Postal Service First-Class Mail, Priority Mail, and Priority Mail Express must be sent to 45 L Street NE, 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 & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530.

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

- 1) Megan Danner, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, megan.danner@fcc.gov; and
- 2) Nissa Laughner, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, nissa.laughner@fcc.gov; and
- 3) Jim Bird, Office of General Counsel, jim.bird@fcc.gov.

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.¹⁷ 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

¹⁷ See 47 CFR § 1.45(c).

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 Megan Danner at (202) 418-1151.

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