



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

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

DA 25-784

Released: August 29, 2025

**DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF
BENDTEL, INC. TO VERO BROADBAND HOLDINGS, INC.**

NON-STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

WC Docket No. 25-188

Comments Due: September 12, 2025

Reply Comments Due: September 19, 2025

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) seeks comment from interested parties on an application filed by Thomas D. Barrett and Jeff R. Neff (together, Transferors), and Vero Broadband Holdings, Inc. (Vero) (Transferors, together with Vero, collectively, 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 consent for the transfer of control of BendTel, Inc. (BendTel) from the Transferors to Vero.²

BendTel, an Oregon corporation, provides service as a competitive local exchange carrier to approximately 1,255 rural customers in Central Oregon.³ BendTel is currently owned and controlled by Thomas D. Barrett and James R. Neff, both U.S. citizens. Vero, a Delaware corporation and holding company, does not provide domestic telecommunications services.⁴ Vero is a wholly owned subsidiary of

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

² Domestic Section 214 Application for the Transfer of Control of BendTel, Inc., WC Docket No. 25-188 (filed June 2, 2025) (Application). Applicants also filed an application for the transfer of an authorization associated with international services (ICFS File No. ITC-T/C-20250603-00054). Any action on the Application is without prejudice to Commission action on other related, pending applications.

³ Application at 2.

⁴ *Id.* at 2. Vero wholly owns: (1) Vero Broadband, LLC (Vero Broadband), a Colorado limited liability company that holds licenses to provide competitive telecommunications services in Colorado, Montana, and Oregon, but does not currently provide any telecommunications services; and (2) Vero Fiber Networks, LLC, a Colorado limited liability company, provides dark fiber and WAN services, and also holds licenses to provide telecommunications services in 30 states, but not in Oregon. *Id.* at 2-3. Applicants state that Vero Broadband, has two subsidiaries, ClearNetworkx, LLC, a Colorado limited liability company, and FastTrack Communications, Inc., a Colorado corporation, both of which do not currently provide telecommunications services, although each holds a license to provide competitive telecommunications services in Colorado. *Id.* at 2. We note that Vero Broadband is a party to another domestic section 214 application pending before the Commission. See Domestic Section 214 Application for the Acquisition of Assets of Revenant Denver, Inc. Debtor in Possession f/k/a Futurum Communications Corporation dba Forethought.net, Revenant Eagle, Inc. Debtor in Possession f/k/a San Isabel Telecom, Inc., by Vero Broadband, LLC, WC Docket No. 22-23, DA 25-784 (rel. August 29, 2025).

VFN Holdings, Inc. (VFN Holdings), a Delaware corporation and holding company.⁵

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, Transferors will sell substantially all issued and outstanding stock of BendTel to Vero.⁶ Upon completion of the transfer of control of BendTel to Vero, BendTel's customers and assets will be transferred to Vero's subsidiary, Vero Broadband, LLC.⁷ Applicants assert that a grant of the application would serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.⁸ Because the proposed transaction is more complex than those accepted for streamlined treatment, and in order to analyze whether the proposed transaction would serve the public interest, we accept the Application for non-streamlined processing.⁹

Domestic Section 214 for the Transfer of Control of BendTel, Inc. to Vero Broadband Holdings, Inc., WC Docket No. 25-188 (filed June 2, 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 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

⁵ *Id.* at 2. The following U.S. entity and U.S. citizen hold a ten percent or greater interest in VFN Holdings: MME 2014 Family Trust (15.213% equity and voting) and Mathew R. Erickson (10.706% equity and voting). *Id.* at 8. With regards to the MME 2014 Family Trust, the current Trustee is Meg Erickson and the current beneficiaries are Haley Erickson and Grace Erickson, all United States citizens. *Id.* Applicants state that, following the consummation of the proposed transaction, other than what is described in the Application, none of the upstream entities or individuals holding a 10% or greater interest in BendTel also hold an interest in any other provider of domestic telecommunications services. *Id.* at 9.

⁶ *Id.* at 3.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.* at 3-6.

⁹ 47 CFR § 63.03(c)(1)(v).

(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).

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

- 1) Gregory Kwan, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, gregory.kwan@fcc.gov
- 2) 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.¹⁰ 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 Gregory Kwan, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at (202) 418-1191.

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¹⁰ See 47 CFR § 1.45(c).