



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 26-194

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APPLICATIONS FILED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF GCI LIBERTY, INC. TO DR. JOHN C. MALONE

NON-STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

WC Docket No. 25-279

Comments Due: March 12, 2026

Reply Comments Due: March 19, 2026

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau, Office of International Affairs, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and Space Bureau seek comment from interested parties on the applications filed by GCI Liberty, Inc. (GCI Liberty) and Dr. John C. Malone (John Malone) (together, Applicants), pursuant to section 214(a) and 310(d) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,¹ the Cable Landing License Act of 1921,² and sections 1.767, 1.948, 25.119, 63.04, 63.18, and 63.24 of the Commission's rules.³ The Applicants seek Federal Communications Commission (Commission) approval to transfer control of GCI Liberty, and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, to John Malone.⁴

GCI Liberty, a Nevada corporation, through its wholly owned subsidiaries, provides data, wireless, and other communications services to residential and businesses customers, governmental entities, and educational and medical institutions primarily in Alaska under the GCI brand.⁵ The

¹ 47 U.S.C. §§ 214(a), 310(d).

² 47 U.S.C. §§ 34-39. *See also* Exec. Ord. No. 10530, Sec. 5(a), reprinted as amended at 3 U.S.C. § 301 (delegating the President's authority under the Cable Landing License Act to the Commission).

³ *See*; 47 CFR §§ 1.948, 63.04, 25.119, 63.04, 63.18, 63.24.

⁴ Consolidated Application for Consent to Transfer of Control of International and Domestic Authority Pursuant to Section 214, WC Docket No. 25-279 (filed Sept. 8, 2025) (Lead Application). Applicants also filed applications to transfer control of the wireless, earth station, and submarine cable landing licenses. The domestic and international section 214 authorizations, the wireless licenses, earth station licenses, and the submarine cable landing licenses held by the Licensees are identified in Attachment A, together with corresponding FCC file numbers, including file numbers for any associated amendments. *See also* Lead Application at Attachment 1 (GCI Liberty, Inc. FCC Licenses and Authorizations) (listing the subsidiaries of GCI Liberty that hold FCC licenses and authorizations and that are subject to the proposed transaction). On January 13, 2026, Applicants filed a supplement to their domestic section 214 application. Letter from Kristine Laudadio Devine, Counsel to GCI Communications Corp., to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 25-279 (filed Jan. 13, 2025) (First Supplement). On January 22, 2026, the Applicants filed amendments to their submarine cable landing license transfer of control applications. Any action on the Application is without prejudice to Commission action on other pending applications or proceedings.

⁵ Lead Application, Exh. A (Description of Acquisition of Control, Public Interest Showing, and Related Demonstration) at 3. Applicants also provide pre- and post-consummation ownership charts of GCI Liberty. *Id.*, Exh. B (Pre-Consummation and Post-Consummation Structure of GCI Liberty, Inc.) at 1-2.

following wholly owned subsidiaries of GCI Liberty hold domestic section 214 authority: GCI Communication Corp. (GCICC), Unicom, Inc. (Unicom), United Utilities, Inc. (UUI), United-KUC, Inc., and Yukon Telephone Co, Inc.⁶ The following wholly owned subsidiaries of GCI Liberty hold international section 214 authority: GCICC and The Alaska Wireless Network, LLC. Through its wholly owned subsidiaries that are licensees on seven submarine cable licenses (GCICC, Kodiak Kenai Fiber Link, Inc., Unicom, and UUI), GCI Liberty provides interexchange and other services for its own subscribers and wholesale submarine capacity.⁷

On July 14, 2025, Liberty Broadband Corporation (Liberty Broadband), which previously wholly-owned GCI Liberty, completed a spinoff of GCI Liberty as an independent, publicly traded company (GCI Spin-Off) in which Liberty Broadband does not retain any ownership interest in GCI Liberty.⁸ John Malone, a U.S. citizen, currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of, among other entities, GCI Liberty and Liberty Broadband.⁹ John Malone currently holds approximately 53.50% of the aggregate voting power of GCI Liberty, however, in connection with the GCI Spin-Off, certain trusts and entities related to John Malone entered into a side letter agreement (Side Letter) which effectively restricts their aggregate voting power in GCI Liberty to no more than 49.99%.¹⁰

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, GCI Liberty and John Malone seek Commission approval to terminate the Side Letter, which would therefore allow Dr. Malone to assume control of GCI Liberty.¹¹ Applicants state that, post-consummation, GCI Liberty and its subsidiaries offering domestic and international telecommunications services will continue to operate under the GCI

⁶ Lead Application at 14 (providing a general description of services and geographic service areas for each of these domestic telecommunications providers). GCICC and UUI receive funding from the Alaska Plan and participate in the Lifeline program, and Applicants state that these entities plan to continue participating in these programs post-consummation. First Supplement at 1 (also providing each of their individual study area codes (SACs) and stating that each are designated as eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs)).

⁷ Consolidated Application for Consent to Transfer of Control of Cable Landing License, File nos. SCL-T/C-20250821-00030, SCL-T/C-20250821-00031, SCL-T/C-20250821-00033 at Exh. A, p. 5. For a list of the GCI Liberty cables, licensees, and application file numbers see Attachment A below.

⁸ Lead Application at 1; Exh. A at 9. Applicants state that Liberty Broadband distributed to the holders of Liberty Broadband common stock the common stock of GCI Liberty and that, following completion of the Spin-off, GCI Liberty will be an independent publicly traded company. *Id.* at 8.

⁹ *Id.*, Exh. A at 5. John Malone is also affiliated with Liberty Communications of Puerto Rico LLC, Liberty Mobile Puerto Rico Inc., Liberty Mobile USVI Inc., and Broadband VI, LLC. First Supplement at 1-2. Each of these affiliates participate in Lifeline program, and Applicants state that they intend to continue that participation following the consummation of the proposed transaction. *Id.* at 2 (also, for each of these entities, stating that they are designated as ETCs and providing their individual SACs).

¹⁰ *Id.*, Exh. A at 9. As a result of the Side Letter, Applicants state that John Malone's aggregate voting power in GCI Liberty currently remains under 50%, even though Dr. Malone could otherwise be deemed to beneficially own, directly or indirectly, approximately 53.50% of the aggregate voting power of GCI Liberty. *Id.*, Exh. A at 9-10. Giving effect to the Side Letter, John Malone controls approximately 49.32% of the aggregate voting power of GCI Liberty and approximately 6.87% of the of the aggregate equity interest of GCI Liberty. *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*, Exh. A at 10. As preliminary step to the transfer of control to Dr. Malone, the GCI Liberty subsidiaries filed notifications of the pro forma transfer of control of submarine cable landing license licensees GCICC, Kodiak Kenai Fiber Link, Inc., Unicom, and UUI from Liberty Broadband Corporation to GCI Liberty, Inc., effective July 14, 2025. *See Section 1.767(a) Submarine Cable Landing Licenses, Modifications, and Assignments or Transfers of Control of Interests in Submarine Cable Landing Licenses (47 C.F.R. § 1.767(a) Actions Taken Under Submarine Cable Landing License Act*, Public Notice, DA 26-27, Report No. SCL-00589 (OIA Jan. 8, 2026). With respect to these international 214 transactions, The Alaska Wireless Network, LLC filed a notification of its pro forma transfer of control from Liberty Broadband Corporation (Liberty Broadband) to GCI Liberty, Inc., and GCI Communication Corp. filed notification of its pro forma transfer of control from Liberty Broadband Corporation to GCI Liberty, Inc. *See International Authorizations Granted, Section 214 Applications (47 CFR §§ 63.18, 63.24); Section 310(b) Petitions (47 CFR § 1.5000)* Public Notice, DA 26-26, Report No. TEL-02627 (OIA Jan. 8, 2026).

brand, and will maintain current management and headquarters in Anchorage, Alaska.¹²

Applicants assert that a grant of the Application would serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.¹³ Applicants state that the proposed transaction “involves no new investors that have not previously been reviewed by the Commission, no reportable foreign ownership, and no new combinations with competitive effects.”¹⁴ Applicants assert that John Malone’s proposed exercise of control will enhance his role in GCI Liberty, thereby facilitating growth and service innovations by GCI Liberty and its subsidiaries.¹⁵

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.¹⁶

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) and the International Communications Filing System (ICFS).

- Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/> and ICFS at <https://www.fcc.gov/icfs>
- 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.

¹² Lead Application, Exh. A at 10.

¹³ *Id.*, Exh. A at 10-15.

¹⁴ Lead Application at 2. Applicants assert that 50% or more of GCI Liberty’s shares are not being transferred under the proposed transaction and that John Malone’s qualifications have been previously reviewed by the Commission in other transactions. *Id.*, Exh. A at 14-15.

¹⁵ *Id.*, Exh. A at 12-13.

¹⁶ 47 CFR § 63.03(c)(1)(v).

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) Karen Johnson, Telecommunications and Analysis Division, Office of International Affairs, Karen.Johnson@fcc.gov;
- 3) Arthur Lechtman, Telecommunications and Analysis Division, Office of International Affairs, Arthur.lechtman@fcc.gov;
- 4) Nadja Sodos-Wallace, Broadband Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at Nadja.SodosWallace@fcc.gov;
- 5) Stephanie Asous, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at Stephanie.Asous@fcc.gov;
- 6) Clay DeCell, Satellite Programs and Policy Division, Space Bureau; claydecelfcc.gov; and
- 7) 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 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; Karen Johnson, Telecommunications and Analysis Division, Office of International Affairs, (202) 418-7706; Arthur Lechtman, Telecommunications and Analysis Division, Office of International Affairs (202) 418-1465; Nadja Sodos-Wallace, Broadband Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, (202) 418-0955; and Stephanie Asous, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, (202) 418-2155; Clay DeCell, Satellite Programs and Policy Division, Space Bureau, (202) 418-0803.

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¹⁷ See 47 CFR § 1.45(c).

ATTACHMENT A**SECTION 214 AUTHORIZATIONS****A. International**

Applications for consent to the transfer of control of international section 214 authorizations have been assigned the file numbers listed below.

<u>File Number</u>	<u>Authorization Holder</u>	<u>Authorization Number</u>
ITC-T/C-20250821-00088 ITC-AMD-20260113-00014	GCI Communication Corporation	ITC-214-19960116-00009
ITC-T/C-20250821-00089 ITC-AMD-20260113-00013	The Alaska Wireless Network, LLC	ITC-214-20120618-00162

B. Domestic

Applicants filed an application to transfer control of the blanket domestic section 214 authority held by certain GCI Liberty subsidiaries listed below in connection with the proposed transaction—WC Docket No. 25-279.

Authorization Holder
GCI Communications Corp.
Unicom, Inc.
United Utilities, Inc.
United-KUC, Inc.
Yukon Telephone Co., Inc.

C. CABLE LANDING LICENSES

<u>File Number</u>	<u>Licensee</u>	<u>License Number</u>
SCL-T/C-20250821-00030 SCL-AMD-20260107-00006	GCI Communication Corp.	SCL-LIC-20240815-00036 ¹⁸ SCL-LIC-20100914-00021 ¹⁹ SCL-MOD-20230803-00022 ²⁰ SCL-MOD-20200708-00025 ²¹
SCL-T/C-20250821-00031 SCL-AMD-20260107-00007	Kodiak Kenai Fiber Link, Inc.	SCL-LIC-20060413-00004 ²²
SCL-T/C-20250821-00032 SCL-AMD-20260107-00008	Unicom, Inc.	SCL-LIC-20020522-00047 ²³ SCL-MOD-20240515-00013 ²⁴
SCL-T/C-20250821-00033 SCL-AMD-20260107-00009	United Utilities, Inc.	SCL-LIC-20100914-00021 ²⁵

D. SECTION 310(d) APPLICATIONS

Wireless Licenses. Applications for consent to the assignment and transfer of control of wireless licenses under section 310(d) have been assigned the file numbers listed below.

File Number	Application Type	Licensee/Lessee/Sublessee	Lead Call Sign/Lead Lease Identifier
0011696870 (lead application)	TC	The Alaska Wireless Network, LLC	KNKN480
0011696915	TC	GCI Communication Corp.	WFY570
0011697944	TC	United Utilities, Inc.	KNKD748
0011697948	TC	United2, LLC	WPNI462
0011697954	TC	Unicom, Inc.	WQPH548
0011697958	LT	The Alaska Wireless Network, LLC	L000018007
0011732509	LT	The Alaska Wireless Network, LLC	L000038876
0011732764	LT	The Alaska Wireless Network, LLC	L000046766
0011733798	LT	The Alaska Wireless Network, LLC	L000046779
0011733821	LT	The Alaska Wireless Network, LLC	L000046780
0011733846	LT	The Alaska Wireless Network, LLC	L000046767

¹⁸ Alaska United East cable.

¹⁹ Cook Inlet Segment of TERRA-SW cable.

²⁰ AU-Aleutian cable.

²¹ Alaska United Southeast cable.

²² Kodiak-Kenai Fiber Link cable.

²³ Alaska United West cable.

²⁴ Airraq cable.

²⁵ Cook Inlet Segment of TERRA-SW cable.

File Number	Application Type	Licensee/Lessee/Sublessee	Lead Call Sign/Lead Lease Identifier
6053EDSL25	LT (sublease)	The Alaska Wireless Network, LLC	L000045363
6054EDSL25	LT (sublease)	The Alaska Wireless Network, LLC	L000043098
6055EDSL25	LT (sublease)	The Alaska Wireless Network, LLC	L000041405
6056EDSL25	LT (sublease)	The Alaska Wireless Network, LLC	L000001782
6057EDSL25	LT (sublease)	The Alaska Wireless Network, LLC	L000010293

Earth Station Licenses. Applications for consent to the transfer of control of earth station licenses under section 310(d) have been assigned the file numbers listed below.

File Number	Licensee	Lead Call Sign
SES-T/C-20250819-00846	GCI Communication Corp.	E210427
SES-T/C-20250820-00914	GCI Communication Corp.	E120191
SES-T/C-20250820-00915	GCI Communication Corp.	E010030
SES-T/C-20250821-00573	GCI Communication Corp.	E000634
SES-T/C-20250821-00575	GCI Communication Corp.	E110169
SES-T/C-20250821-00576	GCI Communication Corp.	E030192
SES-T/C-20250821-00577	GCI Communication Corp.	E180787
SES-T/C-20250821-00578	GCI Communication Corp.	E190847
SES-T/C-20250821-00922	GCI Communication Corp.	E020336
SES-T/C-20250821-00923	GCI Communication Corp.	E874371