



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, DC 20554

News Media Information 202-418-0500
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DA 26-279

Released: March 23, 2026

DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF SPRINGCOM, INC. AND SPRINGPORT TELEPHONE COMPANY TO MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE

NON-STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

WC Docket Nos. 26-59

Comments Due: April 6, 2026

Reply Comments Due: April 13, 2026

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau seeks comment from interested parties on the application¹ filed by Springcom, Inc. (Springcom), Springport Telephone Company (Springport), and Midwest Energy Cooperative, d/b/a Midwest Energy & Communications (MEC) (collectively, Applicants), pursuant to section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and section 63.04 of the Commission's rules,² requesting consent to transfer control of domestic assets and customers held by Springcom and Springport to MEC.

Springcom is a Michigan corporation that provides broadband Internet and related telecommunications services in the Springport, Michigan area and surrounding communities.³ Springcom holds a 100% equity ownership and voting interest in and is the parent company of, Springport, a Michigan corporation.⁴ Springport operates as an incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC) that provides traditional voice service, long-distance, and broadband services to customers in Springport, Michigan and surrounding areas.⁵ Applicants assert that Springport is a designated Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) that receives high-cost Universal Service Fund (USF) support in the form of High-Cost Loop Support (HCLS) and Connect America Fund – Broadband Loop Support (CAF-BLS),⁶ both forms of legacy support.

MEC is a Michigan nonprofit corporation and rural electric cooperative that provides electric

¹ Domestic Section 214 Application for the Transfer of Control of Springcom, Inc. and Springport Telephone Company to Midwest Energy Cooperative, WC Docket No. 26-59 (filed Mar. 5, 2026) (Application). Applicants also filed an application for the transfer of authorizations associated with international services. Any action on the Application is without prejudice to Commission action on other related, pending applications.

² See 47 U.S.C. § 214(a); 47 CFR § 63.04.

³ Application at 3.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Application at 3. Applicants also state that Springport participates in the Lifeline program and MEC will assume these obligations post-consummation of the transaction. *Id.* at 4,6.

services in rural southwest and southeast Michigan, and portions of northern Indiana and Ohio.⁷ MEC also provides fiber services as a competitive LEC to all of its electric customers.⁸ Applicants state that MEC, a designated ETC, receives high-cost USF support in the form of CAF Phase II Auction (CAF Phase II) support and Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) support.⁹ Applicants also note that MEC receives RDOF support in areas adjacent to Springport boundaries and has begun offering voice and broadband services in portions of Springport's service territory.¹⁰

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, MEC will purchase substantially all of the assets and certain liabilities of Springport relating to the provision of Internet and broadband access, local telephone, long distance, and international services and related activities in Springport, Michigan and surrounding areas.¹¹ Applicants assert that, post-consummation of the transaction, Springport will be dissolved while Springcom will continue to exist and hold any remaining assets.¹² Applicants state that all current Springport and Springcom customers will continue to receive the same level of service without interruption under MEC, and MEC will assume Springport's carrier of last resort obligations and will become the incumbent LEC in the Springport service areas.¹³

Applicants assert that a grant of the Application would serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.¹⁴ Because the proposed transaction would involve the exchange and assumption of Universal Service Fund high-cost mechanism obligations, and because the proposed transaction is more complex than those accepted for streamlined treatment, to sufficiently analyze whether the proposed transaction would serve the public interest, we accept the Application for non-streamlined processing.¹⁵

Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of the Springcom, Inc. and Springport Telephone Company to Midwest Energy Cooperative, WC Docket No. 26-59 (filed Mar. 5, 2026).

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.

⁷ Application at 2.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Application at 2. Applicants state that MEC participates in the Lifeline program and will continue to do so post-consummation of the transaction. *Id.* at 3, 6.

¹⁰ Application at 2.

¹¹ *Id.* at 3-4.

¹² *Id.* at 4.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.* at 7-8.

¹⁵ See 47 CFR § 63.03(c)(1)(v).

- 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;
- 2) Robert Martin, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, robert.martin@fcc.gov;
- 3) Audra Hale-Maddox, Telecommunications Access and Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, audra.hale-maddox@fcc.gov;
- 4) Karen Johnson, Office of International Affairs, karen.johnson@fcc.gov; and
- 5) 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.¹⁶ 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

¹⁶ See 47 CFR § 1.45(c).

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, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at (202) 418-1151 or Robert Martin, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at (202) 418-2903.

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