



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

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

DA 26-313

Released: March 31, 2026

**DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF
MONROE TELEPHONE COMPANY TO PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.**

NON-STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

WC Docket No. 26-70

Comments Due: April 14, 2026

Reply Comments Due: April 21, 2026

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau seeks comment from interested parties on an application¹ filed by Monroe Telephone Company (Monroe) and Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. d/b/a Pioneer Connect (Pioneer) (together, 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 Commission consent to transfer control of Monroe to Pioneer.

Monroe, an Oregon corporation and incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC), provides local, long distance, international, and broadband Internet services in the Benton and Lane Counties of West Central Oregon.³ Applicants state that Monroe, a designated Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC), is a recipient of high-cost Universal Service Fund (USF) support in the form of Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost (ACAM) Model support.⁴

Pioneer, an Oregon telephone cooperative and incumbent LEC, provides local, long distance, international, and broadband Internet services in the counties of Benton, Lincoln, Lane, and Polk.⁵ Pioneer has one wholly-owned subsidiary, Pioneer Consolidated, Inc. d/b/a Pioneer Connect, which provides international services pursuant to Pioneer's international 214 authorization.⁶ Applicants state that Pioneer, a designated ETC, is a recipient of high-cost USF support in the form of Revised ACAM

¹ Domestic Section 214 Application for the Transfer of Control of Monroe Telephone Company to Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc., WC Docket No. 26-70 (filed Mar. 20, 2026) (Application). Applicants filed a supplement to the Application on March 26, 2026. Letter from Donald L. Herman, Counsel for Monroe Telephone Company and Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 26-70 (filed Mar. 26, 2026) (Supplement). Applicants also filed an application for the transfer of international authorizations. 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 2-3.

⁴ *Id.* at 3. Applicants also state that Monroe participates in the Lifeline program and will continue to do so post-consummation of the transaction. *Id.*; Supplement at 2.

⁵ Application at 3.

⁶ *Id.* at 3.

support.⁷

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, Pioneer will acquire 100% of Monroe's stock.⁸ Applicants assert that, post-consummation of the transaction, Monroe will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Pioneer and will continue to exist for a period until Pioneer can transition certain Monroe software, systems, and contractual relationships over to Pioneer.⁹ Applicants further indicate that Pioneer will eventually merge the Monroe entity with and into Pioneer pursuant to a pro forma transfer of control and Monroe will cease to exist.¹⁰

Applicants assert that a grant of the Application would serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.¹¹ Because the proposed transaction would involve the exchange and assumption of Universal Service Fund high-cost mechanism obligations, in order to sufficiently analyze whether the proposed transaction would serve the public interest, we accept the Application for non-streamlined processing.¹²

Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of Monroe Telephone Company to Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc., WC Docket No. 26-70 (filed Mar. 20, 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.
 - 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

⁷ *Id.* at 4. Applicants also state that Pioneer participates in the Lifeline program. *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.* at 4-5.

¹¹ *Id.* at 6.

¹² *See* 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.

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.¹³ 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 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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¹³ See 47 CFR § 1.45(c).