



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 26-41

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**DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION GRANTED FOR THE ACQUISITION OF
CERTAIN ASSETS OF WINN TELEPHONE COMPANY D/B/A WINN TELECOM
BY BW BROADBAND INC.**

WC Docket No. 25-236

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) grants an application filed by Winn Telephone Company d/b/a Winn Telecom (Winn) and BW Broadband, Inc. (BW Broadband) (together, Applicants), pursuant to section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and section 63.04 of the Federal Communications Commission's (Commission) rules,¹ requesting consent for the acquisition of certain assets of Winn by BW Broadband.²

On September 12, 2025, the Bureau released a public notice seeking comment on the Application.³ The Bureau did not receive any comments or petitions in opposition to the Application.

Winn, a Michigan corporation, provides service as an incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC) in the Winn exchange located in the Townships of Deerfield and Freemont, Isabella County, Michigan (Winn Exchange) and provides competitive LEC services in multiple other Michigan exchanges outside the Winn Exchange.⁴

BW Broadband, a Michigan corporation formed for the purposes of the proposed transaction, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Blanchard Telephone Association, Inc. (Blanchard),⁵ a Michigan holding company that also wholly owns: (i) Blanchard Telephone Company (Blanchard Telephone), a Michigan corporation, providing service as a rural incumbent LEC in the Blanchard exchange in Broomfield and Rolland Townships, Isabella County, and Millbrook and Wheatland Townships, Mecosta County,

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

² Domestic Section 214 Application for the Acquisition of Certain Assets of Winn Telephone Company d/b/a Winn Telecom by BW Broadband Inc., WC Docket No. 25-236 (filed July 22, 2025) (Application). On August 18, 2025, Applicants filed a supplement to their domestic section 214 application. Letter from Michael G. Olivia, Counsel to the Applicants, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 25-236 (filed Aug. 18, 2025) (Supplement). Any action on the Application is without prejudice to Commission action on other related, pending applications.

³ *Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Acquisition of Certain Assets of Winn Telephone Company d/b/a Winn Telecom by BW Broadband Inc.*, WC Docket No. 25-236, Public Notice, DA 25-852 (WCB 2025).

⁴ Application at 1-2, 8. Applicants state that Winn has a license to provide local exchange service to all zones and exchange areas in the state of Michigan but does not offer service in all the areas in which it is licensed to provide such service. *Id.* at 2. Applicants also report that Winn currently provides LEC services as an incumbent LEC or competitive LEC to residential and business customers in 67 Michigan exchanges, including operating as a competitive LEC in the Blanchard exchange, and that the proposed transaction will not impact Winn's current service in the other exchanges. *Id.* at 7. Applicants state that while Winn is licensed as a competitive LEC in the Blanchard exchange of Blanchard Telephone, there is "no material overlap" in any of the service areas of Winn and Blanchard, as Blanchard operates exclusively in its own exchange. *Id.* at 4.

⁵ *Id.* at 3. Applicants state that Blanchard does not provide domestic telecommunications services. Supplement at 2.

Michigan;⁶ and (ii) Central Michigan Communication Inc., which provides long distance and communications resale service to Blanchard Telephone.⁷ Applicants state that the Winn exchange in which Winn provides incumbent LEC service is adjacent to the Blanchard Exchange in which Blanchard Telephone provides incumbent LEC service.⁸

Applicants report that Winn receives legacy cost-based-support and Lifeline support, and that prior to completing this transaction, they intend to ensure that BW Broadband will become eligible to receive such support after the closing of the proposed transaction and pursuant to all required regulatory approvals by the Commission and the Michigan Public Service Commission.⁹

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, Blanchard would acquire the assets of Winn that are utilized to provide Winn's incumbent LEC operations within the Winn Exchange.¹⁰ Applicants state that, post-consummation, Winn would then cease providing local exchange service in the Winn exchange, and BW Broadband will become the incumbent LEC in the Winn exchange, as the successor to Winn.¹¹

Applicants assert that a grant of the Application would serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.¹² Applicants state that Blanchard has substantial expertise in communications infrastructure and rural telecom services and that BW Broadband will invest in new infrastructure and continue to offer high-quality services to Winn Exchange customers.¹³ Applicants further state that the proposed transaction will not adversely impact competition because it involves the transfer of assets in a rural exchange from one small provider to another, with no overlap in incumbent LEC territories.¹⁴

Grant of Application

We find that grant of the Application will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.¹⁵ Therefore, pursuant to section 214 of the Act, 47 U.S.C. § 214, and sections 0.91, 0.291, and 63.04 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.91, 0.291, and 63.04, the Bureau hereby grants the Application discussed in this Public Notice.

Pursuant to section 1.103 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 1.103, the grant is effective upon release of this Public Notice. Petitions for reconsideration under section 1.106 or application for review under section 1.115 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.106, 1.115, may be filed within 30 days of the date of this Public Notice.

For further information, please contact Gregory Kwan, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, gregory.kwan@fcc.gov; Nissa Laughner, Telecommunications Access Policy

⁶ Application at 3. Applicants state that Blanchard Telephone also provides competitive LEC services in a small portion of the Lakeview Exchange consisting of an approximately two-square mile rural area in Millbrook Township Mecosta County, Michigan. Supplement at 2.

⁷ Application at 3-4, 8.

⁸ Supplement at 3.

⁹ See Application at 11-15; *see generally*, Supplement.

¹⁰ Application at 2, 4, and 7.

¹¹ *Id.* at 2. Applicants state that Winn will continue its competitive LEC operations in the other exchanges for which it has a license in Michigan. *Id.*

¹² *Id.* at 9-11.

¹³ *Id.* at 10

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ See 47 U.S.C. § 214(a).

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