



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

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

DA 26-619

Released: June 23, 2026

**DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF
VAN BUREN TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC. TO
CITIZENS MUTUAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE**

NON-STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

WC Docket Nos. 26-108

Comments Due: July 7, 2026

Reply Comments Due: July 14, 2026

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau seeks comment from interested parties on an application filed by Van Buren Telephone Company, Inc. (VBT) and Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative (CM Tech) (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 to transfer control of VBT to CM Tech.²

VBT, an Iowa corporation and member-owned cooperative, provides service as an incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC) to approximately 1,553 access lines in the Van Buren, Jefferson, and Lee counties of Iowa, within the exchange areas of Birmingham, Bonaparte, Cantril, Keosauqua, Mount Sterling, and Stockport.³

CM Tech, an Iowa corporation and member-owned cooperative in which no single member or entity holds a greater than 10% interest, provides service as an incumbent LEC in Davis County, Iowa.⁴ CM Tech also provides service as a competitive LEC in portions of Mahaska, Keokuk, Wapello, Monroe,

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

² Domestic Section 214 Application for the Transfer of Control of Van Buren Telephone Company, Inc. to Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative, WC Docket No. 26-108 (filed May 6, 2026) (Application). On June 12, 2026, Applicants filed a supplement to their domestic section 214 application. Letter from Salvatore Taillefer, Counsel to Applicants, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 26-108 (filed Jun. 12, 2026) (Supplement). 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.

³ Application at 4. Applicants state that VBT delivers 100% fiber-to-the-premises service throughout its approximately 340 square-mile service area. *Id.* Applicants further state that VBT has been designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in Iowa and receives Enhanced A-CAM, CAF ICC, and Lifeline support. *Id.* at 8-9.

⁴ Supplement at 2. Applicants identify the officers and directors of CM Tech, all of whom are U.S. citizens. *Id.* at 1. Applicants state that CM Tech has been designated as an ETC in Iowa and currently receives Enhanced A-CAM, CAF ICC, and Lifeline support. Application at 8-9. Applicants note that CM Tech's wholly-owned subsidiary, Citizens Communications Company, an Iowa company, is currently inactive and does not offer any domestic telecommunications services. Supplement at 2; Application, Exh. A at 1.

Jefferson, Van Buren, and Lee counties, Iowa.⁵

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, CM Tech will acquire all outstanding shares of stock in VBT.⁶ VBT will thereafter continue to operate as a direct, wholly owned subsidiary of CM Tech.⁷

Applicants assert that the proposed transaction is consistent with 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 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of
Van Buren Telephone Company, Inc. to Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative,
WC Docket No. 26-108 (filed May 6, 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.

⁵ Supplement at 2-3. Applicants provide a map depicting CM Tech's incumbent LEC and competitive LEC service areas. *Id.* at Attachment A. Applicants also provide a map of the respective service areas of VBT and CM Tech. *See* Application, Exh. B at 1. Applicants note that CM Tech also manages, pursuant to a management services agreement, the operations of Farmers Telephone Company, an unaffiliated incumbent LEC located in Batavia, Iowa. *Id.*

⁶ *Id.* at 4. Applicants note that CM Tech's competitive local exchange carrier operations in Van Buren County have some limited adjacency to VBT's incumbent local exchange service area. *Id.* at 5.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.* at 6-8.

⁹ *See* 47 CFR § 63.03(c)(1)(v).

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) Gregory Kwan, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, gregory.kwan@fcc.gov;
- 2) Karen Johnson, Telecommunications and Analysis Policy Division, Office of International Affairs, karen.johnson@fcc.gov; and
- 3) 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).