PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION GRANTED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF MONROE TELEPHONE COMPANY TO PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

WC Docket No. 26-70

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) grants the application[1] of 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.

On March 31, 2026, 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.

Monroe, an Oregon corporation and incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC), provides local, long distance, international, and other services in the Benton and Lane Counties of West Central Oregon.[4] 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 Model (Enhanced A-CAM) support.[5]

Pioneer, an Oregon telephone cooperative and incumbent LEC, provides local, long distance, international, and other services in the counties of Benton, Lincoln, Lane, and Polk.[6] 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.[7] Applicants state that Pioneer, a designated ETC, is a recipient of high-cost USF support in the form of Revised A-CAM I support.[8]

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[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] *See Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of Monroe Telephone Company to Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.*, WC Docket Nos. 26-70, Public Notice, DA 26-313 (WCB 2026).

[4] Application at 2-3.

[5] *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.

[6] Application at 3.

[7] *Id*. at 3.

[8] *Id*. at 4. Applicants also state that Pioneer participates in the Lifeline program. *Id*.

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, Pioneer will acquire 100% of Monroe's stock.[9] 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.[10] Applicants further indicate that Pioneer will eventually merge the Monroe entity with and into Pioneer pursuant to a pro forma transfer of control, after which Monroe will cease to exist.[11]

Applicants assert that a grant of the Application would serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.[12] Applicants purport that the transaction will create efficiencies in operations, facilitate continued investment in community-based networks, and permit the continued, uninterrupted provision of high-quality service without reduction, loss, or impairment of services to any subscriber.[13] Applicants state the transaction will expand service delivery capabilities through the planned deployment of its fiber-to-the-premises network to broadband serviceable locations throughout the existing Monroe study area.[14] Monroe will retain its ETC status in the Monroe service area and will continue to fulfill its responsibilities as an ETC including its obligations associated with Enhanced A-CAM[15] until the Monroe entity is merged into Pioneer post-transaction, at which point Pioneer will meet its service obligations in its study area (SAC 532393) and its service obligations in the Monroe Enhanced A-CAM study area (SAC 532385).[16] Finally, Applicants assert that the transaction will not alter Pioneer's existing public service obligations as an ETC, including its commitment to deploy and maintain high speed broadband and voice services within its study area or within the Monroe study area.[17]

We find that grant of the Application will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.[18] 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.[19]

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 applications 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 Megan Danner, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at Megan.Danner@fcc.gov or Robert Martin, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at Robert.Martin@fcc.gov.

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[9] *Id*.

[10] *Id*.

[11] *Id*. at 4-5.

[12] *Id*. at 6.

[13] *Id*.

[14] *Id*.

[15] *Id.* at 5.

[16] *Id*. at 6-7.

[17] *Id*. at 7.

[18] *See* 47 U.S.C. § 214(a).

[19] We further direct Applicants to submit in the domestic section 214 docket a notice that the proposed transaction has closed with the consummation date and also provide a courtesy copy of the notice to hcinfo@usac.org. Applicants must submit a copy of the consummation notice via email to Megan.Danner@fcc.gov and Audra.Hale-Maddox@fcc.gov.

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