PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, DC 20554

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DA 26-714
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DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF HUNTEL, INC. AND ITS OPERATING SUBSIDIARIES, BRANDED AS FASTWYRE, TO GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS, LLC

NON-STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

WC Docket No. 26-142

Comments Due: July 27, 2026
Reply Comments Due: August 3, 2026

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau seeks comment from interested parties on an application filed by American Broadband Holding Company (American Broadband) and Great Plains Communications LLC (Great Plains) (collectively, 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 Commission consent for the transfer of control of American Broadband's Nebraska-based subsidiaries, Arlington Telephone Company (Arlington TC), The Blair Telephone Company (Blair TC), Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company (Eastern Nebraska TC), Rock County Telephone Company (Rocky County TC), and HunTel Cablevision Inc. (HunTel Cablevision) (together, Fastwyre Nebraska Licensees) to Great Plains.[2]

American Broadband, a Delaware holding company, wholly-owns HunTel, Inc. (HunTel), a North Carolina corporation, which wholly-owns each of the Fastwyre Nebraska Licensees.[3] Fastwyre Nebraska Licenses are rural local exchange and broadband companies that serve customers under the brand name Fastwyre.[4] Arlington TC, a Nebraska corporation, is an incumbent local exchange carrier

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

[2] Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of HunTel, Inc. and its Operating Subsidiaries, Branded as Fastwyre, to Great Plains Communications, LLC, WC Docket No. 26-142 (filed June 9, 2026) (Application). Applicants filed a supplement to the Application on July 2, 2026. Letter from Matthew S. DelNero, et al., Counsel for Great Plains Communications LLC, and Brian W. Murray, Counsel for American Broadband Holding Company, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 26-142 (filed July 2, 2026) (Supplement). Applicants also filed an application for the transfer of authorizations associated with international services. Any action on this domestic section 214 application is without prejudice to Commission action on other related, pending applications. Applicants state that a previously granted domestic section 214 application for the transfer of control of the Fastwyre Nebraska Licensees to Anacoco Capital Partners, LLC will not be consummated. Application at n.3. *See Domestic Section 214 Applications Granted for the Transfer of Control of Fastwyre Alaska and Fastwyre Nebraska Licensees to Anacoco Capital Partners, LLC*, WC Docket Nos. 25-329, 26-2, Public Notice, DA 26-322 (WCB Apr. 1, 2026); Letter from Brian W. Murray, Counsel for ABC Parent Holdings LP, and Todd Slamowitz, Counsel for Anacoco Capital Partners, LLC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 26-2 (filed June 10, 2026) (notifying the Commission that the transaction would not be consummated).

[3] Application at 3.

[4] *Id*. at 2. Applicants state that each of the Fastwyre Licensees is designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC). *Id*. at 23.

(LEC) that serves approximately 250 access lines in Nebraska.[5] Blair TC, a Nebraska corporation (Blair TC), is an incumbent LEC that serves approximately 1,580 access lines in Nebraska.[6] Eastern Nebraska TC, a Nebraska corporation, is an incumbent LEC that serves approximately 1,300 access lines in Nebraska.[7] Rocky County TC, a Nebraska corporation, is an incumbent LEC that serves approximately 410 access lines in Nebraska.[8] HunTel Cablevision, a Nebraska corporation, is a competitive LEC that serves approximately 985 access lines in Nebraska.[9] American Broadband and its subsidiaries, including the Fastwyre Nebraska Licensees, are indirectly controlled and primarily owned by private equity investment funds managed by Madison Dearborn Partners, LLC (MDP), a Delaware limited liability corporation and investment adviser.[10]

Great Plains and its wholly-owned direct subsidiaries, Great Plains Broadband LLC (GP Broadband), Great Plains Communications Long Distance LLC (GP Long Distance), and GPC ETC Holdings LLC are limited liability companies organized under the laws of Delaware, and its subsidiary, InterCarrier Network, LLC (ICN), a limited liability company organized under the laws of Michigan.[11] Great Plains provides voice and other services over its 20,000+ mile fiber network to business and residential customers in over 200 communities in Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, and Nebraska.[12] Great Plains serves as an incumbent LEC in Nebraska and in a few areas of Colorado, Kansas, and South Dakota.[13] GP Broadband provides services as a competitive LEC in Nebraska and Iowa.[14] GP Long Distance provides resold long-distance service in Nebraska.[15] ICN is authorized to provide service as a competitive LEC in Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky.[16] GPC ETC Holdings LLC, a subsidiary of Great Plains, does not provide telecommunications services, but is the parent company of Miles Communications, LLC (Miles Communications), Sunman Telecommunications LLC (Sunman Telecommunications), and Sunman Telecommunications Long Distance LLC (Sunman Long Distance),

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[5] *Id*. at 3. Arlington TC receives high-cost support through the Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model (Enhanced A-CAM) program. *Id*.

[6] *Id*. at 4. Applicants state that Blair TC receives high-cost support through the Enhanced A-CAM program. *Id*.

[7] *Id*. Applicants state that Eastern Nebraska TC receives high-cost support through the Enhanced A-CAM program. *Id*.

[8] *Id*. Applicants state that Rock County TC receives high-cost support through the Enhanced A-CAM program. *Id*.

[9] Applicants state that HunTel Cablevision does not receive high-cost USF support. *Id*. at 4. Applicants state that "HunTel Cablevision provides cable service within a small portion of Great Plains Communicaton's incumbent LEC services area – specifically, in Herman, Nebraska, which has a population of 247 person as of the 2020 census." *Id*. at 8. Applicants assert that the proposed transaction is exempt from the cable/LEC cross ownership prohibition pursuant to the Rural Systems Exception in section 652(d)(1) of the Act. *Id.* (citing 47 U.S.C. § 572(d)(1) and contending that Great Plains is not prohibited from obtaining a controlling interest in HunTel Cablevision because: HunTel Cablevision only serves incorporated or unincorporated places or territories that have fewer than 35,000 inhabitants and are outside urbanized areas, as defined by the Bureau of Census, and HunTel Cablevision system serves less than ten percent of the households in the telephone services area of Great Plains).

[10] Application at 3.

[11] *Id*. at 5.

[12] *Id*.

[13] *Id*. at 5-6. Applicants state that Great Plains receives high-cost support through the Enhanced A-CAM program. *Id*. at 6.

[14] *Id*. at 6. Applicants state that GP Broadband does not receive high-cost support. *Id*.

[15] *Id*.

[16] *Id*.

which are all authorized to provide telecommunications services in Indiana.[17] Great Plains is owned and controlled by funds managed by Grain Management, LLC (Grain Management) and ultimately controlled by David Grain, a U.S. citizen.[18] Applicants state that there is no overlap between the incumbent LEC service areas of the Fastwyre Nebraska Licensees and Great Plains, and that certain areas are adjacent to one another.[19] They further state that HunTel Cablevision has built a fiber network in certain portions of the incumbent LEC area of Great Plains, and that GP Broadband has built a fiber network in certain portions of the Fastwyre Licensees' incumbent LEC service area, and that in both cases the fiber entities provide only broadband and non-telecommunications services.[20]

Pursuant to a stock purchase agreement, Great Plains will acquire all of the outstanding equity interests in HunTel, and thus indirect ownership of its subsidiaries, including the Fastwyre Nebraska Licensees.[21] Applicants state that, as a result of the proposed transaction, Great Plains will assume control of the Fastwyre Nebraska Licensees, including all licenses, physical plants, and operations in Nebraska.[22]

Applicants assert that a grant of the Application would serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.[23] 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.[24]

> Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of HunTel, Inc. and its Operating Subsidiaries, Branded as Fastwyre, to Great Plains Communications, LLC, WC Docket No. 26-142 (filed June 9, 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**

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[17] *Id.*; Supplement at 1. Applicants state that Sunman Telecommunications receives high-cost support through the Enhanced A-CAM program. Application at 6.

[18] Application at 5, Attach. (Post Transaction Ownership Chart).

[19] Application at 7-8.

[20] *Id.*

[21] *Id.* at 9.

[22] *Id.*

[23] *Id.* at 9-12.

[24] *See* 47 CFR § 63.03(c)(1)(v).

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) Dennis Johnson, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, dennis.johnson@fcc.gov;
2) Audra Hale-Maddox, Telecommunications Access and Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, audra.hale-maddox@fcc.gov;
3) Karen Johnson, Office of International Affairs, karen.johnson@fcc.gov; and
4) 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.[25] 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 Dennis Johnson, Competition Policy Division, Wireline

[25] *See* 47 CFR § 1.45(c).

Competition Bureau, at (202) 418-0809.

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