



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

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

DA No. 26-880
Released: August 24, 2026

DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF SIREN TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC. TO LAKELAND COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

NON-STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

WC Docket No. 26-198

Comment Date: September 8, 2026
Reply Comment Date: September 15, 2026

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau seeks comment from interested parties on the application¹ filed by Siren Telephone Company, Inc. (Siren) and Lakeland Communications, Inc. (Lakeland) (collectively, 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 consent for the transfer of control of Siren to Lakeland.

Siren, a Wisconsin corporation and incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC), provides facilities-based local voice and exchange access services, long distance services through resale arrangements with other carriers, and high-speed Internet services primarily in Burnett County, Wisconsin.³ Siren, an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC), receives high-cost Universal Service Fund (USF) support through the Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model (E-ACAM) program.⁴

Lakeland, a Wisconsin holding corporation, does not provide any communications services.⁵ Lakeland's wholly-owned subsidiary, Lakeland Communications Group, LLC d/b/a Lakeland Communications (LCG), a Wisconsin corporation and incumbent LEC, provides local voice, long distance voice, and high-speed Internet services to approximately 75% of Polk County, Wisconsin and a small portion of southwestern Burnett County, Wisconsin that does not overlap with Siren's service area.⁶ LCG, an ETC, receives high-cost USF support through the E-ACAM and Rural Digital Opportunity Fund

¹ Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of Siren Telephone Company, Inc. to Lakeland Communications, Inc., WC Docket No. 26-198 (filed Aug. 4, 2026) (Application). Applicants filed a supplement to the Application on August 12, 2026. Letter from Donald L. Herman, Jr., Counsel for Applicants, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 26-198 (Aug. 12, 2026). Applicants also filed applications 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.

² See 47 U.S.C. § 214(a); 47 CFR § 63.04.

³ Application at 2. Siren's wholly-owned subsidiary, Siren Communications Inc., a Wisconsin corporation, provides international voice services to Siren's incumbent LEC customers through resale arrangements. *Id.* at 4-5.

⁴ *Id.* at 3, 18. Siren also participates in the Lifeline program. *Id.* at 3.

⁵ *Id.* at 5.

⁶ *Id.* at 6; see *id.* at Exh. C (Map Demonstrating Applicant's Service Areas).

programs.⁷ Lakeland, managed by its Board of Directors, is widely held with just under 400 shareholders. Applicants state that no individual or entity, either directly or indirectly, owns ten percent or more of the equity and/or voting interests, or has a controlling interest in Lakeland.⁸

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, Lakeland will acquire 100% of Siren's stock.⁹ As a result, Siren will become a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Lakeland.¹⁰

Applicants assert that grant of the Application would serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.¹¹ Because this transaction is more complex than those accepted for streamlined treatment, 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 Siren Telephone Company, Inc. to Lakeland Communications, Inc., WC Docket No. 26-198 (filed Aug. 4, 2026).

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Applications 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 (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.

⁷ *Id.* at 7-8, 18. Lakeland also participates in the Lifeline program. *Id.* at 8.

⁸ *Id.* at 13-14.

⁹ *Id.* at 9.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.* at 10-11.

¹² 47 CFR § 63.03(c)(1)(v).

In addition, email one copy of each pleading to each of the following:

- 1) Megan Danner, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, megan.danner@fcc.gov;
- 2) Audra Hale-Maddox, Telecommunications Access and Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, audra.hale-maddox@fcc.gov
- 3) Brenda Villanueva, Telecommunications Access Division, Office of International Affairs, brenda.villanueva@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.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.

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¹³ See 47 CFR § 1.45(c).