



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, DC 20554

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

DA 26-919

Released: August 28, 2026

**WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU ACCEPTS FOR FILING CELLCO
PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS AND CAROLINA WEST WIRELESS, INC.'S
ASSIGNMENT APPLICATION**

WT Docket No. 26-235

Comment/Petition Date: September 28, 2026

Opposition Date: October 8, 2026

By this Public Notice, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) announces that the assignment application filed by Cellco Partnership doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) and Carolina West Wireless, Inc. (Carolina West) (Verizon Wireless and Carolina West together, the Applicants)¹ has been found, upon initial review, to be acceptable for filing.²

On August 12, 2026, Verizon Wireless and Carolina West filed an application pursuant to section 310(d) of the Communications Act seeking the Federal Communications Commission's consent to assign from Carolina West to Verizon Wireless certain 600 MHz, cellular, AWS-1, PCS, EBS, 3.45 GHz, 3.5 GHz, C-band, Lower 700 MHz, and common carrier microwave licenses in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.³ The Applicants state that Carolina West intends to exit the retail wireless business and terminate its retail operations by September 30, 2026.⁴

Carolina West is an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) and has requested FCC approval to relinquish its ETC designation concurrent with the consummation of the proposed transaction.⁵ Carolina West has also requested that its high-cost and Lifeline support end as of the closing date.⁶ Carolina West has already notified and started encouraging its customers to begin migrating to Verizon Wireless or another provider by September 30, 2026.⁷ The Applicants state that Carolina West will continue operating its RAN infrastructure and associated equipment, keeping the spectrum in use and

¹ See Application of Cellco Partnership d/b/a/ Verizon Wireless and Carolina West Wireless, Inc., for Assignment of Control, Universal Licensing System (ULS) File No. 0012099807 (filed Aug. 12, 2026) (Verizon Wireless/Carolina West Application).

² 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 or policies.

³ Verizon Wireless/Carolina West Application, Description of Transaction and Public Interest Statement at 1 (Public Interest Statement); Public Interest Statement, Exhibit 2, Spectrum Aggregation Chart. A full list of the Spectrum Licenses included in the proposed transaction is provided in Schedule A of the Applicant's Public Interest Statement.

⁴ Public Interest Statement at 1.

⁵ Petition for Relinquishment of Eligible Telecommunications Provider Status, WC Docket No. 09-197, at 1 (Aug. 24, 2026) (Carolina West ETC Relinquishment Petition).

⁶ Carolina West ETC Relinquishment Petition at 2.

⁷ Public Interest Statement at 1; Carolina West ETC Relinquishment Petition at 5.

providing service to customers transitioning to Verizon Wireless and to roaming customers through the consummation of the proposed transaction.⁸

The Applicants also state that Verizon Wireless would fill in a gap in its coverage by acquiring this spectrum.⁹ Post-transaction, according to Applicants, Verizon Wireless would be attributed with a maximum of 474 megahertz of spectrum in the markets at issue, including up to 104 megahertz of below-1-GHz spectrum.¹⁰ The Applicants state that the proposed transaction would trigger the overall spectrum screen in 13 of 37 counties, and that the assignment of below 1-GHz spectrum would trigger enhanced factor review in 29 of 37 counties included in the proposed transaction.¹¹

Ex Parte Rules. Pursuant to section 1.1200(a) of the Commission's rules,¹² the Commission may adopt modified or more stringent *ex parte* procedures in particular proceedings if the public interest so requires. We announce that this proceeding will be governed by permit-but-disclose *ex parte* procedures that are applicable to non-restricted proceedings under section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules.¹³ This proceeding shall be treated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.¹⁴ Entities or 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). Entities or 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). In proceedings governed by rule 1.49(f) or for which the Commission has made available a method of electronic filing, written *ex parte* presentations and memoranda summarizing oral *ex parte* presentations, and all attachments thereto, must be filed through the electronic comment filing system available for that proceeding, and must be filed in their native format (e.g., .doc, .xml, .ppt, searchable .pdf).¹⁵ Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.

Comment Period and Filing Procedures. Interested parties may file petitions, comments, and oppositions 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). Comments should refer to WT Docket No. 26-235 when filing in response to this Public Notice.

⁸ Public Interest Statement at 1; Carolina West ETC Relinquishment Petition at 3–4. In connection with the proposed transaction, the Applicants have entered into a short-term spectrum manager leasing arrangement under which Verizon Wireless will lease its cellular block A spectrum in North Carolina 3 Cellular Market Area (NC-3) to Carolina West to provide roaming services, until the transition of the operations in NC-3 to Verizon Wireless. Notification of Cellco Partnership d/b/a/ Verizon Wireless and Carolina West Wireless Inc., ULS File No. 0012164386 (filed Aug. 26, 2026); Carolina West and Verizon, Notification of Spectrum Manager Lease at 1.

⁹ Public Interest Statement at 2.

¹⁰ Public Interest Statement at 1; Public Interest Statement, Exhibit 2, Spectrum Aggregation Chart.

¹¹ Public Interest Statement at 1–2.

¹² 47 CFR § 1.1200(a).

¹³ 47 CFR § 1.1206.

¹⁴ 47 CFR §§ 1.1200 *et seq.*

¹⁵ 47 CFR § 1.1206(b).

- *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.

One copy of each pleading, *ex parte* submission, or other filing must be delivered electronically, by email, or if delivered as paper copy, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (according to the procedures set forth above for paper filings), to: (1) Susannah Larson, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at susannah.larson@fcc.gov; (2) Judith Dempsey, Office of Economics and Analytics, Economic Analysis Division, at judith.dempsey@fcc.gov; (3) Nadja Sodos-Wallace, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Broadband Division, at nadja.sodoswallace@fcc.gov. Any submission emailed to these individuals should include in the subject line of the email: (1) WT Docket No. 26-235; (2) the name of the submitting party; and (3) a brief description or title identifying the type of document being submitted (e.g., WT Docket No. 26-235, Widget Corp., Notice of *Ex Parte* Communications).

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 (voice).

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