



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 12th STREET S.W.
WASHINGTON D.C. 20554

News media information 202-418-0500
Fax-On-Demand 202-418-2830; Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov> (or <ftp.fcc.gov>)
TTY (202) 418-2555

Report No. SCL-00020S

Monday December 11, 2006

STREAMLINED SUBMARINE CABLE LANDING LICENSE APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED FOR FILING

Unless otherwise specified, the following procedures apply to the applications listed below:

The applications listed below have been found, upon initial review, to be acceptable for filing and subject to the streamlined processing procedures set forth in section 1.767 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.767. Pursuant to the Submarine Cable Landing License Act, 47 U.S.C. §§ 34-39, and Executive Order No. 10530, reprinted as amended in 3 U.S.C. § 301, each applicant seeks: (a) the grant of a cable landing license; (b) the modification of a cable landing license; and/or (c) the assignment or transfer of control of an interest in a submarine cable landing license.

Pursuant to its decision in Review of Commission Consideration of Applications under the Cable Landing License Act, IB Docket No. 00-106, FCC 01-332, 16 FCC Rcd 22167 (2001) and section 1.767 of the rules, the Commission will take action upon these applications within forty-five (45) days after release of this public notice, unless the Commission has informed the applicant in writing that the application, upon further examination, has been deemed ineligible for streamlined processing.

Ex parte communications between outside parties and Commission staff concerning these applications are permitted subject to the Commission's rules for "permit-but-disclose proceedings." See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206. Filings relating to this application must be received within 14 days of this notice. Such filings will not necessarily result in an application being deemed ineligible for streamlined processing.

Copies of all applications listed here are available for public inspection in the FCC Reference and Information Center, located in room CY-A257 at the Portals 2 building, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington DC 20554. The center can be contacted at (202) 418-0270. 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), 202-418-0432 (tty). All applications listed are subject to further consideration and review, and may be returned and/or dismissed if not found to be in accordance with the Commission's rules, regulations, and other requirements.

Submarine Cable Landing License

Application for authority to land and operate a non-common carrier fiber-optic submarine cable system in the Gulf of Mexico -- the Gulf of Mexico Fiber Optic Network (Gulf Fiber). The Gulf Fiber network will consist of an undersea cable extending from Freeport, Texas to Pascagoula, Mississippi, and is designed to improve communications services to oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico.

Gulf Fiber will be a digital fiber-optic system with a minimum design capacity of 320 Gbps per fiber pair on two fiber pairs (a total of 640 Gbps). Each of the fiber pairs will be capable of carrying a minimum of 32 wavelengths of traffic. The application specifies the two (2) landing station locations for the proposed Gulf Fiber network, one in Freeport, Texas and the other in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

BP Exploration and Production Company (BP), a limited liability corporation organized under the laws of Delaware, will own and operate the entire Gulf Fiber network between Freeport, TX and Pascagoula, MS, including each of its segments, wet links and the cable landing stations in Freeport, TX and Pascagoula, MS. BP is indirectly 100% owned by BP p.l.c, a United Kingdom corporation, through a series of wholly-owned, intermediate subsidiaries. There are no ten percent or greater shareholders of BP p.l.c.

BP will primarily utilize the capacity to support its own oil drilling platforms in the Gulf of Mexico, but will offer to selected users on an infeasible right-of-use (IRU) or leased-capacity basis, on terms tailored to those customer's particular needs.

REMINDERS:

Applicants must certify that neither the applicant nor any party to the application is subject to a denial of federal benefits by federal and/or state courts under authority granted in 21 U.S.C. § 862. See C.F.R. §§ 1.2001-1.2003.

The Commission's rules applicable to submarine cable landing licenses (47 C.F.R. §§ 1.767, 1.768) are available at <http://www.fcc.gov/ib/td/pf/telecomrules.html>. See also http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edoc_public/attachmatch/DA-02-5981A1.pdf for a March 13, 2002 Public Notice; http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-01-332A1.pdf for the December 14, 2001 Report and Order.

By this notice, we inform the public that submarine cable landing license applications and international section 214 applications that are part of larger transactions involving multiple Commission licenses or authorizations may involve "extraordinary circumstances" as referenced in Review of Commission Consideration of Applications under the Cable Landing License Act, Report and Order, 16 FCC Rcd 22167 (2001) and Rules and Policies on Foreign Participation in the U.S. Telecommunications Market, Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration, 12 FCC Rcd 23891 (1997), paras. 327-28, Order on Reconsideration, 15 FCC Rcd 18158 (2000). Additionally, these extraordinary circumstances may result where Executive Branch agencies petition the Commission to defer decision on certain transactions pending the resolution of potential national security, law enforcement, foreign policy and trade policy issues. Accordingly, these applications may not be acted on within the 90-day review period that the Commission has established as the period of time normally required to reach a decision on non-streamlined cable landing licenses and international section 214 applications. This notice shall serve as public notice to applicants that, in these circumstances, additional time may be required for Commission review and final action. No additional formal public notice will be provided routinely with respect to specific applications in the event that the applicable review period extends beyond 90 days.