



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
45 L St., N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500  
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>

DA 24-1001  
Released: September 26, 2024

**DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR THE  
TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF UNION RIVER TELEPHONE COMPANY D/B/A RIVAH.NET  
TO DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS ROCKLAND, INC.**

**NON-STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED**

**WC Docket No. 24-282**

**Comments Due: October 10, 2024**  
**Reply Comment Due: October 17, 2024**

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau seeks comment from interested parties on an application filed by Union River Telephone Company d/b/a Rivah.Net (Union River) and Direct Communications Rockland, Inc. (DCR) (together, Applicants), pursuant to section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and sections 63.03-04 of the Commission's rules,<sup>1</sup> requesting consent to transfer control of Union River to DCR.<sup>2</sup>

Union River, a Maine corporation and rural incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC), provides service to 1,351 voice access line customers and 1,227 Internet access customers.<sup>3</sup> Union River's territory includes the network exchanges that serve customers in and around the communities of Otis, Mariaville, Amherst, Aurora, Waltham, Great Pond, Osborn, Deblois, and Beddington.<sup>4</sup> In addition to these communities, Union River serves 9 of the 35 unorganized territories and Passamaquoddy Tribal Land in Washington County and 5 of the 15 unorganized territories in Hancock County.<sup>5</sup>

DCR, an Idaho corporation and incumbent LEC, provides telecommunications and broadband services in Idaho.<sup>6</sup> DCR wholly owns the following entities: Star Telephone Company, Inc., a

<sup>1</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 214(a); 47 CFR §§ 63.03-04.

<sup>2</sup> Joint Application for Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended, for Consent to the Transfer of Control of Union River Telephone Company d/b/a Rivah.Net to Direct Communications Rockland, Inc., WC Docket No. 24-282 (filed Sept. 9, 2024) (Application). Applicants filed a supplement on September 18, 2024. Letter from John Kuykendall, Consultant for Union River Telephone Company d/b/a/ Rivah.Net, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 24-282 (filed Sept. 18, 2024) (Supplement). Any action on this domestic section 214 application is without prejudice to Commission action on other related, pending applications.

<sup>3</sup> Application at 2, 4, 6.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 6.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 2, 4.

Louisiana corporation operating as a rural incumbent LEC in Louisiana; Direct Communications Cedar Valley, LLC (DCCV), a Utah limited liability company operating as a rural incumbent LEC in Utah that wholly-owns Rico Telephone Company, a Colorado corporation operating as a rural incumbent LEC in Colorado; and UniTek, Inc., a Maine corporation operating as a holding company, which wholly-owns UniTel, Inc. (UniTel) and UniCap, Inc. (UniCap), both Maine corporations<sup>7</sup> UniTel, a rural incumbent LEC, provides telecommunications services to approximately 2,855 access lines in Kennebec, Penobscot, and Waldo Counties in central Maine.<sup>8</sup> UniCap, a reseller of interexchange long distance services, provides services in the service area of UniTel.<sup>9</sup> DCR is wholly owned by Direct Management Company, LLC (DMC), an Idaho limited liability company, by means of common stock voting interest.<sup>10</sup> DMC's Members have an indirect interest in DCR by and through their DMC membership.<sup>11</sup> The DMC Members are the following U.S. citizens: Timothy May, President/Manager of DCR's Board of Directors (41.50%); Scott Hendrickson, Secretary/VP of Operations of DCR's Board of Directors, (18.50%); Jeremy Smith (18.50%); and Kip Wilson (18.50%).<sup>12</sup> Applicants assert that none of the foregoing direct and indirect interests held by DCR overlap with any service areas or fiber facilities of Union River.<sup>13</sup>

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, DCR proposes to acquire, through transfer of control, all the operations and assets of Union River.<sup>14</sup> Upon consummation of the proposed transaction, Applicants state that Union River and DCR will continue to hold domestic Section 214 authority in their respective serving areas.<sup>15</sup> Applicants also state that Union River will continue to exist and operate under its existing corporate structure.<sup>16</sup>

Applicants request streamlined processing and assert that the proposed transaction is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.<sup>17</sup> Because the proposed transaction would involve the exchange and assumption of Universal Service Fund high-cost mechanism obligations, in order to analyze whether the proposed transaction would serve the public interest, we accept the Application for non-streamlined processing.<sup>18</sup>

Joint Application for Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended, for Consent to the Transfer of Control of Union River

---

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 4, 7-8.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* at 8; *see also Domestic Section 214 Application Granted Subject to Condition*, Public Notice, WC Docket No. 21-460, 37 FCC Rcd 408 (WCB 2022 ), Attach. to Supplement.

<sup>9</sup> Application at 8.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* at 4.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* at 4-5; *see also Application for Authorization Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934 for Transfer of Control of UniTek, Inc. to Direct Communications Rockland, Inc.*, WC Docket 21-460, at 5 (filed Nov. 22, 2021), Attach. to Supplement.

<sup>12</sup> Application at 4-5, Exh. B.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* at 8, 10, 12.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.* at 6.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> *Id.*

<sup>17</sup> *Id.* at 8-10.

<sup>18</sup> 47 CFR § 63.03(c)(1)(v).

Telephone Company d/b/a Rivah.Net to Direct Communications Rockland, Inc.,  
WC Docket No. 24-282 (filed Sept. 9, 2024).

### **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 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](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY).

**In addition, e-mail one copy of each pleading to each of the following:**

- 1) Tracey Wilson, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, [tracey.wilson@fcc.gov](mailto:tracey.wilson@fcc.gov);
- 2) Megan Danner, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, [megan.danner@fcc.gov](mailto:megan.danner@fcc.gov); and
- 3) Jim Bird, Office of General Counsel, [jim.bird@fcc.gov](mailto: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.<sup>19</sup> 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 at (202) 418-1151.

-FCC-

---

<sup>19</sup> See 47 CFR § 1.45(c).