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DA 24-925

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OPENS DOCKET FOR PROPOSED TRANSFER OF WIRELESS OPERATIONS, CUSTOMERS, AND CERTAIN SPECTRUM LICENSES AND SPECTRUM LEASES OF USCELLULAR TO T-MOBILE

GN Docket No. 24-286

On May 28, 2024, T-Mobile US, Inc. (T-Mobile) and United States Cellular Corporation (UScellular) announced an agreement for the transfer of wireless operations, customers, and certain spectrum licenses and spectrum leases held by UScellular to T-Mobile. Applications seeking Commission consent to the transaction are expected to be filed in the coming days. The purpose of this public notice is to announce the opening of a docket, GN Docket No. 24-286, and to articulate the *ex parte* status of discussions related to the proposed transaction. When the applications have been accepted for filing, we will issue a separate public notice announcing that fact and setting forth a pleading cycle.

Pursuant to section 1.1200(a) of the Commission's rules,¹ the Commission may adopt modified or more stringent *ex parte* procedures in particular proceedings if the public interest so requires. We announce that as of the time the applications are filed, 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.²

Ex Parte Rules. This proceeding shall be treated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's ex parte rules.³ 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 section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules. In proceedings governed by section 1.49(f) of the rules 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,

¹ 47 CFR § 1.1200(a).

² 47 CFR § 1.1206.

³ 47 CFR §§ 1.1200 et seq.

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).⁴ Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.

Filing Requirements. All filings must include a reference to GN Docket No. 24-286, and may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).

- Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the internet by accessing 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 commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S.
 Postal Service mail. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary,
 Office of 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.
 - o Commercial courier deliveries (any deliveries not by the U.S. Postal Service) must be sent to 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.
 - U.S. Postal Service First-Class, Express, and Priority Mail must be addressed to 45 L Street NE, Washington, D.C. 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 (voice).

One copy of each *ex parte* submission also 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, Competition & Infrastructure Policy Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at susannah.larson@fcc.gov; 2) Nick Copeland, Economic Analysis Division, Office of Economics and Analytics, at nicholas.copeland@fcc.gov; 3) Stephanie Asous, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at stephanie.asous@fcc.gov; 4) Nadja Sodos-Wallace, Broadband Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at nadja.sodoswallace@fcc.gov; and 5) Joel Rabinovitz, Office of General Counsel, at joel.rabinovitz@fcc.gov.

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⁴ 47 CFR § 1.1206(b).