

STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 17-C-0050 - Verified Joint Petition of FairPoint Communications, Inc., Berkshire Telephone Corporation, Chautauqua and Erie Telephone Corporation, Taconic Telephone Corp., FairPoint Business Services LLC, Consolidated Communications, Inc., and Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. for Approval of Proposed Transactions Pursuant to Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the New York State Public Service Law.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARING

(Issued May 12, 2017)

The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) seeks public comment on a petition (Petition) jointly filed on January 13, 2017, by Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. (CCH) and FairPoint Communications, Inc. (FCI) seeking Commission approval of the proposed transfer of certain telephone, broadband and cable assets from FCI to CCH.

Under the proposed transaction, CCH would acquire FCI and its subsidiaries operating in New York, including Berkshire Telephone Corporation, Chautauqua and Erie Telephone Corporation, Taconic Telephone Corporation, and FairPoint Business Services. CCH, which currently does not provide telecommunications services in New York State, plans to retain all of FCI's existing assets in the State.

If the transaction is approved, CCH would own and/or manage certain broadband, voice and cable video systems serving communities in Chautauqua, Columbia, Dutchess and Rensselaer counties. According to the Petition, the proposed transaction would involve only a change of ownership at the holding company

level and customers will not experience any immediate changes in services, rates, or terms and conditions of service. The Petition also asserts that New York consumers will benefit from the merger because:

- The combined company will be able to offer advanced products and services and expanded customer choice for telecommunications and broadband services.
- The transfer is expected to improve broadband coverage and speed. CCH has made it a priority to upgrade the broadband capability of the FCI subsidiary networks.
- CCH has a record of high quality customer service.
- Over time, New York consumers may expect to see new services not currently offered in all markets, including video, home automation and security services.

The full text of the Petition may be viewed online at DPS's website at [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov). From the homepage, click on "Search," and enter the case number (17-C-0050) in the "Search by Case Number" field.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that members of the public may provide comments on the Petition at a public statement hearing to be held as follows:

Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Location: Columbia-Green Community College  
4400 State Route 23  
Room 206  
Hudson, New York 12534

Times: 6:00 p.m. Start of Information Session  
6:30 p.m. Start of Public Statement Hearing

The public statement hearing will be preceded by an information session, during which New York State Department of Public Service staff will provide an overview of the procedure for review of the Petition. The information session will

include an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about the proposed transaction.

At the public statement hearing, interested members of the public can provide their views personally before an Administrative Law Judge. A verbatim transcript of the hearing will be made for inclusion in the record of the proceeding.

It is not necessary to make an appointment in advance in order to speak. Persons interested in speaking will be asked to complete a card requesting time to speak when they arrive at the hearing, and will be called in the order in which the cards are received. Speakers are not required to provide written copies of their comments. The public statement hearing will be kept open for a minimum of one hour and will continue until everyone wishing to speak has been heard or other reasonable arrangements have been made to include their comments in the record.

Disabled persons requiring special accommodations should contact the Department of Public Service's Human Resource Management Office at (518) 474-2520 as soon as possible. TDD users may request a sign language interpreter by placing a call through the New York Relay Service at 711 to reach the Department of Public Service's Human Resource Office at the (518) 474-2520 number. Individuals with difficulty understanding or reading English are encouraged to call the Commission at 1-800-342-3377 for free language assistance services regarding this notice.

Other Ways to Comment

Those who cannot attend or prefer not to speak at a public statement hearing may comment through the following methods:

**Commission Website:** Comments may be entered directly at the 17-C-0050. On the web page for this case, click on the

"Post Comments" button located at the top of the page and enter your comments.

**Email or Mail:** Comments may be sent via e-mail to Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary, at [secretary@dps.ny.gov](mailto:secretary@dps.ny.gov), or by mail or delivery to the Secretary at Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany New York 12223-1350. Comments should refer to "Case 17-C-0050, Fairport Communications, Inc."

**Toll-Free Opinion Line:** You may call the Commission's Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. This number is set up to take comments about pending cases from in-state callers, 24 hours a day. Press "1" to leave comments, mentioning "Case 17-C-0050, Fairport Communications. Such comments will not be transcribed verbatim, but a summary will be prepared for the Commission.

**Comments provided through these alternative methods are requested by May 31, 2017.** All written comments will become part of the record and will be reported to the Commission for its consideration.

All submitted comments may be accessed on the Commission's website at <http://www.dps.ny.gov>. Click "Search" on the home page and then enter "17-C-0050" in the space provided for searching by case number; then view the "Public Comments" tab. Many libraries offer free Internet access.

(SIGNED)

KATHLEEN H. BURGESS  
Secretary