



Consolidated
communications

June 12, 2017

Ms. Carlotta Stauffer
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

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COMMISSION
CLERK

Re: FairPoint Communications / Consolidated Communications Merger

Dear Ms. Stauffer:

I am writing to you on behalf of Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. ("Consolidated") and FairPoint Communications, Inc. ("FairPoint"). The purpose of this letter is to provide you with some information about the pending acquisition of FairPoint by Consolidated. As you are aware, FairPoint has two wholly-owned operating company subsidiaries that provide regulated services in the State of Florida, which are GTC Communications, Inc. ("GTC Communications") and GTC, Inc. ("GTC").

In December 2016, Consolidated signed an agreement to acquire FairPoint in an all stock merger. Under the terms of the agreement, FairPoint shareholders will receive a fixed exchange ratio of 0.7300 shares of Consolidated common stock for each share of FairPoint common stock. FairPoint's existing debt will also be refinanced as part of the transaction.

It is expected that the transaction will close mid-year 2017. The shareholders of both companies approved the merger in March 2017. In addition, the Federal Communications Commission and several state public utility commissions have already approved the transaction. While approval of the transaction by the Florida Public Service Commission is not required, Consolidated and FairPoint wish to notify you of the pending merger. Any required notifications or updated contact information will also be sent to you post-closing, as necessary.

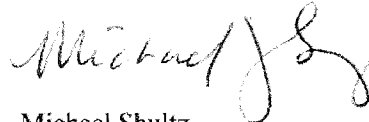
It is not contemplated that there will be any change in the regulated operations of GTC Communications or GTC as a result of the merger. The transaction will not result in a transfer of the certificates of public convenience or necessity of FairPoint's operating subsidiaries in Florida. The transaction is expected to be seamless and transparent to customers. While Consolidated may elect to implement changes to the business in the future based on operating conditions, there will be no immediate change to the rates, terms or conditions of service offered to consumers in FairPoint's service areas. At some point following the closing, Consolidated intends to change the trade or "doing business as (d/b/a)" names of the companies from FairPoint Communications to Consolidated Communications and will register such changes with the proper state agency at that time.

In the long run, the customers of GTC Communications and GTC will benefit from having a larger, financially stronger parent corporation. The objective in completing this transaction is to create a

highly competitive business and broadband company with a superior network to deliver high quality services.

If you have any further questions about the transaction, Consolidated and FairPoint commit to address those questions. Please do not hesitate to contact either Michael Shultz at 936-788-7414 or Peter Nixon at 704-227-3645 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Michael Shultz
VP, Regulatory & Public Policy
Consolidated Communications



Peter G. Nixon
Executive VP, Revenue and External Affairs
FairPoint Communications

cc: Beth Salak, Director, Florida Public Service Commission