

Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc.**Docket No. DT 23-103**

Date Request Received: 03/27/2024

Date of Response: 04/10/2024

Request No.: 1-09

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Request from: NH Department of Energy

Witness: Michael Shultz

Reference Testimony of Andrew Frey, Exhibit A. Please provide an organization chart for the management of CCHI, CCI, CCNE, CCM, and CCES pre- and post-merger, including names and positions.

Response: Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. (“CCES”) employs all individuals working on behalf of CCHI and its subsidiaries. Consolidated’s management and overall business unit structure based on its executive management may be found at: <https://ir.consolidated.com/governance/executive-management/default.aspx>.

No change is anticipated in the pre-merger organization of Consolidated’s business units after closing. To the extent the Department requires additional information, Consolidated is willing to work with the Department to assist it in understanding Consolidated’s overall structure. However, much of this information is competitively sensitive and should not be provided to Consolidated’s competitors.

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Date Request Received: 03/27/2024

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Date of Supplement: 4/24/2024

Request No.: 1-02

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Request from: NH Department of Energy

Witness: Michael Shultz

Reference Petition, Page 11. The Petitioners state:

The proposed Transaction will benefit residents and business in New Hampshire as it will facilitate infrastructure investment, technological development, and economic expansion. Indeed, as Witness Shultz explains, issuing the findings requested in the Petition and approving the Transaction will allow CCHI to continue its multi-pronged fiber expansion strategy and position itself to become a leading fiber provider across the United States.

Please describe how NH consumers will benefit from this expansion and provide examples of the infrastructure investment, technological development, and economic expansion that will result from the proposed transaction. If the Commission does not approve the proposed transaction, would the Petitioners be able to continue the multi-pronged fiber expansion strategy in New Hampshire? Please explain in detail why or why not.

Response: CCHI has expanded the number of locations to which it offers fiber service and plans to further expand its network by leveraging consumer fiber buildouts, including in New Hampshire. Network expansion will allow CCHI to further close the digital divide by continuing to bring broadband services to underserved and unserved communities across rural portions of its New Hampshire markets. CCHI's network expansion will also improve the reliability of the network, benefitting consumers. CCHI has not identified any New Hampshire specific infrastructure investment, technological development, and economic expansion that it will implement post-closing.

If the Commission does not approve the proposed transaction, the Petitioners multi-pronged fiber expansion strategy in New Hampshire would be significantly delayed.

Supplemental Response:

Searchlight III CVL's original investment in 2020 has already enabled the Licensees to make significant investments in bringing fiber-based broadband to their customers. In New Hampshire alone, the Licensees have passed more than 294,000 additional homes with fiber through mid-April

2024. The New Hampshire communities which directly benefitted from this investment are listed in Highly Confidential Attachment A – Supplemental NH DOE DR-1-02 and 1-05(b). In addition to the amounts that have already been invested in CCHI through Searchlight III CVL, the Joint Petitioners anticipate that hundreds of millions of dollars in additional equity capital will likely be invested in CCHI as a result of the Transaction, though the precise amounts have not yet been determined. CCHI's access to this additional capital will facilitate the execution of the company's build plan, which includes the upgrade of approximately 1.6 million passings to fiber that will enable multi-Gigabit-capable services to over 70% of CCHI's passings across the Consolidated footprint. With respect to New Hampshire specifically, Highly Confidential Attachment B – Supplemental NH DOE DR-1-02 and 1-05(b) provides the company's Fidium broadband build information for fiscal year 2024. While competitive pressures and economic conditions have delayed the execution of CCHI's fiber buildout plans, the Transaction will provide CCHI with near-term financial and operational flexibility that will better enable the company to execute its fiber buildout to these and other locations in New Hampshire in the future.

Consolidated has a good faith basis for seeking confidential treatment of the documents referenced above pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. R. Ann. Puc. 203.08(d); Consolidated intends to submit a motion for confidential treatment regarding this document at or before the commencement of the hearing in the proceedings.

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Date Request Received: 03/27/2024

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Request from: NH Department of Energy

Witness: Michael Shultz

Reference page 7 of the testimony of Michael Shultz, lines 11 – 21.

a. Please identify and describe plans to “expand commercial services and carrier solutions by leveraging consumer fiber buildouts to provide greater access to high-speed broadband and additional resiliency and reliability benefits for all services offered over the networks, including regulated voice service” for New Hampshire.

b. Please also identify and describe any plans specific to New Hampshire related to the plan to “expand 1 Gbps (gigabit-per-second) broadband coverage in its current network topography and improve operational efficiency across its approximately 59,000 fiber route miles and two million fiber strand miles.”

Response:

- a. **The Joint Petitioners have not yet planned or identified any specific projects that will be implemented in New Hampshire post-closing.**
- b. **The company-wide build plan includes the upgrade of approximately 1.6 million passings to fiber, which will enable multi-Gigabit-capable services to over 70% of CCHI’s passings across the Consolidated footprint. As stated above, the Joint Petitioners have not yet planned or identified any specific projects that will be implemented in New Hampshire post-closing.**

Supplemental Response: Please see Highly Confidential Attachment Supplemental NH DOE DR-1-02 and 1-05(b) for Fidium broadband build information for fiscal year 2024. See also Supplemental Response to NH DOE DR 1-02.

Consolidated has a good faith basis for seeking confidential treatment of this document pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. R. Ann. Puc. 203.08(d); Consolidated intends to submit a motion for confidential treatment regarding this document at or before the commencement of the hearing in the proceedings.

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