

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the matter of the application of)	
Fairpoint Communications and)	
Consolidated Communications Holding,)	Case No. 17-0069-TP-ACO
Inc. to transfer indirect control of)	
Fairpoint's regulated entities in Ohio to)	
Consolidated Communications Holding,)	
Inc.		

**REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION
SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

On January 10, 2017, Consolidated Communications Holding, Inc (CCHI), FairPoint, and FairPoint's Ohio regulated subsidiaries Germantown Independent Telephone Company, Columbus Grove Telephone Company, Orwell Telephone Company, Quality One Technologies, Germantown Long Distance and Orwell Communications, filed a joint application with the Commission for approval of an indirect change in ownership of Fairpoint's Ohio regulated entities. The regulated entities in Ohio include three incumbent local exchange companies (ILECs) and their three competitive telecommunications affiliates (the Ohio Regulated Entities). Under the terms of the agreement, CCHI has agreed to purchase FairPoint in an all stock transaction. After the merger FairPoint will be a direct subsidiary of CCHI. The three Ohio ILECs (Columbus Grove Telephone Company, Germantown Independent Telephone Company and Orwell Telephone Company) and the regulated competitive telecommunications providers in Ohio (Quality One Technologies, Germantown Long Distance and Orwell Communications) will remain direct subsidiaries of FairPoint and, therefore will become indirect subsidiaries of CCHI. The current customers of the Ohio regulated entities will remain customers of the respective regulated companies immediately following the merger and the transaction will therefore be seamless to customers who will continue to receive the same rates, terms and conditions of service as they do prior to the merger.

This application is being filed pursuant to Section 4901:1-6-29(E) Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C.) and 4901:1-6-29(C) O.A.C., as adopted in Case No. 12-922-TP-ORD. Pursuant to Section 4901:1-6-05 O.A.C. the application is subject to the 30-day automatic

approval process.

The Staff has reviewed all documents filed with the application and has determined that the application has satisfied the requirements set forth in the rule. As such, Staff recommends that the application be approved with an effective date of February 10, 2017.

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Summary: Staff Review and Recommendation electronically filed by Jason Well on behalf of PUCO Staff