

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of Farmer's)	
Mutual Telephone Company to Acquire a)	
Portion of the Customer Base of Bright Long)	Case No. 17-1927-TP-ATR
Distance, Ltd.)	

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

On September 13, 2017, Farmer's Mutual Telephone Company (FMTC) and Bright Long Distance, Ltd. (BLD, and collectively, the Applicants) filed an application seeking approval of a transaction transferring property, plant, or business. In this filing, the Applicants are requesting that the Commission approve the transaction, which will transfer intrastate long-distance customers of BLD residing in FMTC's local service area to Okolona LD, a newly-formed division of FMTC. Applicants state that the affected customers will continue to receive the same services at the same rates, terms and conditions that the customers currently receive. The only change for customers will be the name of their domestic long distance service provider.

Pursuant to Ohio Adm. Code 4901:1-6-29(B)(1)(b), a local exchange carrier offering basic local exchange service must file an ATR application for approval to conduct a transaction involving one or more LECs providing BLES for the purchase, sale, or lease of property, plant, or business. Pursuant to Ohio Adm. Code 4901:1-6-29(D), a telephone company filing an ATR application shall provide to its affected customers at least fifteen days' advance notice of any change in the company's operations identified by this rule that is not transparent to its customers and may impact service, and file a copy of such notice with the commission concurrent with the filing of an application under this rule. The Applicants provided a copy of the joint customer notice that was sent on August 3, 2017, via direct mail to the affected customers.

The Staff has reviewed all documents and exhibits filed with this application and has determined that the Applicants have complied with the requirements under Ohio Adm.Code4901:1-6-29. As such, Staff recommends that this application be automatically approved with an effective date of October 14, 2017.

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