COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
AT RICHMOND, NOVEMBER 12, 2021

JOINT PETITION OF
LUMEN TECHNOLOGIES INC.,
EMBARQ CORPORATION,
UNITED TELEPHONE SOUTHEAST LLC
d/b/a CENTURYLINK,
CENTRAL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF VIRGINIA
d/b/a CENTURYLINK,
CENTURYTEL BROADBAND SERVICES, LLC,
and
CONNECT HOLDING, LLC,

For approval of transfer of control

ORDER FOR NOTICE AND HEARING

On November 3, 2021, Lumen Technologies Inc. ("Lumen"), Embarq Corporation,
United Telephone Southeast LLC ("United Telephone") d/b/a CenturyLink, Central Telephone
Company of Virginia ("Central Telephone") d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel Broadband Services,
LLC ("CTBS"), and Connect Holding, LLC ("Connect Holding"), (collectively, "Petitioners")\(^1\)
completed the filing of a joint petition ("Petition") with the State Corporation Commission
("Commission") pursuant to Chapter 5 of Title 56 of the Code of Virginia ("Code").\(^2\) The
Petitioners request Commission approval, to the extent required, to complete the intra-company
and reorganization transactions necessary for Lumen to transfer control ("Transfer") of United

\(^1\) Apollo Global Management, Inc. ("AGM"); AP (Connect) VoteCo LLC; AP IX Connect Holdings GP, LLC;
AIF IX (Connect Equity AIV), L.P.; AP IX Connect Holdings, L.P.; Connect Parent Corporation; Connect
Intermediate LLC; Connect Midco LLC; Connect Holding II, LLC; Scott Kleinman; John Suydam; and David
Sambur are also considered Petitioners in this proceeding and have provided the statutorily required verifications.

\(^2\) Code § 56-88 \textit{et seq.} ("Utility Transfers Act"). The Petitioners' initial filing on October 7, 2021, was made
complete by supplemental filings by the Petitioners on October 27, 2021, and November 3, 2021. On November 8,
2021, the Staff of the Commission ("Staff") filed a memorandum of completeness documenting that with the
supplemental filings, the Petition was complete for purposes of the statutory requirements of the Utility Transfers
Act as of November 3, 2021.
Telephone, Central Telephone, and CTBS, to Connect Holding, an affiliate of AGM and its subsidiaries ("Apollo").

In support of the Petition, the Petitioners state that Lumen currently provides broadband and other communications services to residential and enterprise customers, including incumbent local exchange carrier ("ILEC") services, through its operating subsidiaries in 37 states. Petitioners further represent that under the terms of an agreement between Lumen and Apollo, Apollo will acquire all of Lumen's ILEC subsidiaries in 20 of these states, including United Telephone and Central Telephone (jointly, "CenturyLink ILECs") in Virginia. The Petitioners state that as a result of the proposed Transfer, Apollo will also assume all obligations and funding associated with the eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") designations of the CenturyLink ILECs. Petitioners further state Apollo will also acquire CTBS, which filed an application with the Commission on October 1, 2021, seeking certificates of public convenience and necessity to provide competitive local exchange telecommunications services on a statewide basis and to provide interexchange telecommunications services to the customers of the CenturyLink ILECs.

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3 Petition at 1.

4 Id. at 2, 7.

5 Id. The Petition states that Lumen will retain its ILEC assets in the 17 other states in its footprint, as well as its national fiber routes and competitive local exchange carrier networks. Id. at 7.

6 Id. at 2.

7 Id. See also, Application of CenturyTel Broadband Services, LLC, For certificates of public convenience and necessity to provide local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Case No. PUR-2021-00242, Doc. Con. Cen. No. 211120053, Order for Notice and Comment (Nov. 5, 2021).
The Petitioners state that the proposed Transfer is expected to occur by July 2022, contingent upon the satisfaction or waiver of other customary closing conditions and regulatory approvals. The Petitioners also state that the Transfer described in the Petition satisfies the statutory requirements of the Utility Transfers Act and that approval is in the public interest. The Petitioners represent that Apollo possesses the requisite financial and managerial fitness and the technical resources to render local exchange telecommunications services and, therefore, the Commission should approve the proposed Transfer.

NOW THE COMMISSION, upon consideration of this matter, is of the opinion and finds that the Petitioners should provide public notice of the Petition; public hearings should be scheduled for the purpose of receiving testimony and evidence on the Petition; interested persons should have an opportunity to file comments on the Petition or participate as a respondent in this proceeding; and the Commission's Staff should be directed to investigate the Petition and file testimony and exhibits containing its findings and recommendations thereon. We further find that a Hearing Examiner should be assigned to conduct all further proceedings in this matter on behalf of the Commission, including filing a final report containing the Hearing Examiner's findings and recommendations.

The Commission takes judicial notice of the ongoing public health issues related to the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19. The Commission has taken certain actions, and may take additional actions going forward, which could impact the procedures in this proceeding.

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8 Petition at 1, 7.
9 Id. at 3.
10 See id. at 2, 8-10.
Consistent with these actions, in regard to the terms of the procedural framework established below, the Commission will, among other things, direct the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and require electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

Code § 56-88.1 provides that the Commission must "approve or disapprove the requested acquisition or disposition within 60 days. The 60-day period may be extended by Commission order for a period not to exceed an additional 120 days." Given the issues raised by the Petition, the Commission finds its review period should be extended for an additional 120 days.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) This matter is docketed and assigned Case No. PUR-2021-00246.

(2) The review period for this proceeding is extended for an additional one hundred and twenty (120) days pursuant to Code § 56-88.1, through May 2, 2022.

(3) All pleadings in this matter should be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by 5 VAC 5-20-150, Copies and format, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"). Confidential and Extraordinarily Sensitive Information shall not be submitted electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, Confidential


12 5 VAC 5-20-10 et seq.
information, of the Rules of Practice. Any person seeking to hand deliver and physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Clerk's Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange the delivery.13

(4) Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, Filing and service, of the Rules of Practice, the Commission directs that service on parties and the Staff in this matter shall be accomplished by electronic means. Concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information, parties and the Staff are instructed to work together to agree upon the manner in which documents containing such information shall be served upon one another, to the extent practicable, in an electronically protected manner, even if such information is unable to be filed in the Office of the Clerk, so that no party or the Staff is impeded from preparing its case.

(5) As provided by § 12.1-31 of the Code and 5 VAC 5-20-120, Procedure before hearing examiners, of the Commission's Rules of Practice, a Hearing Examiner is appointed to conduct all further proceedings in this matter on behalf of the Commission.

(6) The Commission hereby schedules a telephonic hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Petition, as follows:

(a) A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Petition shall be convened telephonically at 10 a.m. on February 23, 2022, with no public witness present in the Commission's courtroom.14

(b) To promote fairness for all public witnesses, each witness will be allotted five minutes to provide testimony.

(c) On or before February 16, 2022, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to

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13 As noted in the Revised Operating Procedures Order, submissions to the Commission's Clerk's Office via U.S. mail or commercial mail equivalents may be subject to delayed processing due to the COVID-19 public health issues.

14 The Commission will convene counsel of record in this proceeding to attend the public witness hearing virtually.
receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141.

(d) Beginning at 10 a.m. on February 23, 2022, the Commission will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

(e) This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

(7) A public evidentiary hearing on the Petition shall be convened at 10 a.m. on February 24, 2022, either in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or by electronic means, to receive testimony and evidence offered by the Petitioners, respondents, and the Staff on the Petition. Further details on this hearing will be provided by subsequent Commission Order or Hearing Examiner's Ruling.

(8) An electronic copy of the Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Petitioners, Eric M. Page, Esquire, and Cody T. Murphey, Esquire, Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellot, LLC, 919 East Main Street, Suite 1300, Richmond, Virginia 23219, epage@eckertseamans.com and cmurphey@eckertseamans.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the Petition and other documents filed in this case from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

(9) On or before December 3, 2021, the Petitioners shall cause the following notice to be published as display advertising (not classified) on one occasion in newspapers of general circulation throughout the Petitioners' service territory in Virginia:
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF THE JOINT PETITION OF
LUMEN TECHNOLOGIES INC., EMBARQ CORPORATION,
UNITED TELEPHONE SOUTHEAST LLC d/b/a
CENTURYLINK, CENTRAL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF
VIRGINIA d/b/a CENTURYLINK, CENTURYTEL
BROADBAND SERVICES, LLC, and CONNECT HOLDING,
LLC, FOR APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF CONTROL

CASE NO. PUR-2021-00246

On November 3, 2021, Lumen Technologies Inc.
("Lumen"), Embarq Corporation, United Telephone Southeast
LLC ("United Telephone") d/b/a CenturyLink, Central Telephone
Company of Virginia ("Central Telephone") d/b/a CenturyLink,
CenturyTel Broadband Services, LLC ("CTBS"), and Connect
Holding, LLC ("Connect Holding"), (collectively, "Petitioners")
complied the filing of a joint petition ("Petition") with the State
Corporation Commission ("Commission") pursuant to Chapter 5 of
Title 56 of the Code of Virginia ("Code") requesting Commission
approval, to the extent required, to complete the intra-company and
reorganization transactions necessary for Lumen to transfer control
("Transfer") of United Telephone, Central Telephone, and CTBS,
to Connect Holding, an affiliate of Apollo Global Management,
Inc., and its subsidiaries ("Apollo").

In support of the Petition, the Petitioners state that Lumen
currently provides broadband and other communications services
to residential and enterprise customers, including incumbent local
exchange carrier ("ILEC") services, through its operating
subsidiaries in 37 states. Petitioners further represent that under
the terms of an agreement between Lumen and Apollo, Apollo will
acquire all of Lumen's ILEC subsidiaries in 20 of these states,
including United Telephone and Central Telephone (jointly,
"CenturyLink ILECs") in Virginia. The Petitioners state that as a
result of the proposed Transfer, Apollo will also assume all
obligations and funding associated with the eligible
telecommunications carrier ("ETC") designations of the
CenturyLink ILECs. Petitioners further state Apollo will also
acquire CTBS, which filed an application with the Commission on
October 1, 2021, seeking certificates of public convenience and
necessity to provide competitive local exchange
telecommunications services on a statewide basis and to provide
interexchange telecommunications services to the customers of the
CenturyLink ILECs.
The Petitioners state that the proposed Transfer is expected to occur by July 2022, contingent upon the satisfaction or waiver of other customary closing conditions and regulatory approvals. The Petitioners also state that the Transfer described in the Petition satisfies the statutory requirements of the Utility Transfers Act and that approval is in the public interest. The Petitioners represent that Apollo possesses the requisite financial and managerial fitness and the technical resources to render local exchange telecommunications services and, therefore, the Commission should approve the proposed Transfer.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on the Petition. On February 23, 2022, at 10 a.m., a Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses, with no public witness present in the Commission's courtroom. On or before February 16, 2022, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCClInfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

On February 24, 2022, at 10 a.m., either in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or by electronic means, a Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence offered by the Petitioners, any respondents, and the Commission's Staff on the Petition. Further details on this hearing will be provided by subsequent Commission Order or Hearing Examiner's Ruling.

The Commission has taken judicial notice of the ongoing public health issues related to the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19. In accordance therewith, all pleadings, briefs, or other documents required to be served in this matter shall be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by 5 VAC 5-20-150, Copies and format, of the Rules of Practice. Confidential and Extraordinarily Sensitive Information shall not be submitted
electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, Confidential information, of the Rules of Practice. Any person seeking to hand deliver and physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Clerk's Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange the delivery.

Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, Filing and service, of the Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission has directed that service on parties and the Commission's Staff in this matter shall be accomplished by electronic means. Please refer to the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing for further instructions concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information.

An electronic copy of the Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Petitioners, Eric M. Page, Esquire, and Cody T. Murphey, Esquire, Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellot, LLC, 919 East Main Street, Suite 1300, Richmond, Virginia 23219, epage@eckertseamans.com and cmurphey@eckertseamans.com.

On or before February 17, 2022, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition electronically by following the instructions on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00246.

On or before January 5, 2022, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at: scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. A copy of the notice of participation as a respondent also must be sent to counsel for the Petitioners. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, Participation as a respondent, of the Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government
body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, Counsel, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00246.

On or before January 27, 2022, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at the address above or at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Petitioners, Staff, and all other respondents. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Commission's Rules of Practice, including 5 VAC 5-20-140, Filing and service, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, Prepared testimony and exhibits. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00246.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, Copies and format, of the Commission's Rules of Practice.

The Petition and other documents filed in this case, the Commission's Rules of Practice, and the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing may be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

LUMEN TECHNOLOGIES INC., EMBARQ CORPORATION, UNITED TELEPHONE SOUTHEAST LLC d/b/a CENTURYLINK, CENTRAL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF VIRGINIA d/b/a CENTURYLINK, CENTURYTEL BROADBAND SERVICES, LLC, AND CONNECT HOLDING, LLC

(10) On or before December 3, 2021, the Petitioners shall serve a copy of this Order for Notice and Hearing on the following officials, to the extent the position exists, in each county, city, and town in which the Petitioners provide service in the Commonwealth of Virginia: the chairman of the board of supervisors of each county; the mayor or manager (or equivalent official) of every city and town; and the county, city, or town attorney. Service shall be made electronically where possible; if electronic service is not possible, service shall be made by either
personal delivery or first-class mail to the customary place of business or residence of the person served.

(11) On or before January 5, 2022, the Petitioners shall file proof of the notice and service required by Ordering Paragraphs (9) and (10), including the name, title, address, and electronic mail address (if applicable) of each official served, with the Clerk of the Commission at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling/.

(12) On or before February 17, 2022, any interested person may submit written comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00246.

(13) On or before December 13, 2021, the Petitioners shall file with the Clerk of the Commission, at the address in Ordering Paragraph (12) or at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the Petitioners expect to establish their case. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Commission's Staff and all respondents.

(14) On or before January 5, 2022, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed in Ordering Paragraph (12). Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of
the notice of participation on counsel to the Petitioners. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, Participation as a respondent, of the Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, Counsel, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00246.

(15) Within three (3) business days of receipt of a notice of participation as a respondent, Petitioners shall serve a copy of the Petition on the respondent.

(16) On or before January 27, 2022, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at the address in Ordering Paragraph (12) or at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Petitioners, Staff, and all other respondents. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Commission's Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, Filing and service, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, Prepared testimony and exhibits. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00246.

(17) On or before January 27, 2022, the Staff shall investigate the Petition and file with the Clerk of the Commission its testimony and exhibits concerning the Petition, and each Staff witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. A copy thereof shall be served on counsel to the Petitioners and all respondents.

(18) On or before February 10, 2022, the Petitioners shall file with the Clerk of the Commission any rebuttal testimony and exhibits that it expects to offer, and each rebuttal
witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. The Petitioners shall serve a copy of their rebuttal testimony and exhibits on the Staff and all respondents.

(19) Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified herein, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, Copies and format, of the Rules of Practice.

(20) The Commission's Rule of Practice 5 VAC 5-20-260, Interrogatories to parties or requests for production of documents and things, shall be modified for this proceeding as follows: responses and objections to written interrogatories and requests for production of documents shall be served within seven (7) calendar days after receipt of the same. In addition to the service requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-260 of the Rules of Practice, on the day that copies are filed with the Clerk of the Commission, a copy of the interrogatory or request for production shall be served electronically on the party to whom the interrogatory or request for production is directed or the assigned Staff attorney, if the interrogatory or request for production is directed to the Staff.\(^{15}\) Except as modified herein, discovery shall be in accordance with Part IV of the Rules of Practice, 5 VAC 5-20-240 et seq.

(21) This matter is continued.

A COPY hereof shall be sent electronically by the Clerk of the Commission to:

Eric M. Page, Esquire, and Cody T. Murphey, Esquire, Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellot, LLC, 919 East Main Street, Suite 1300, Richmond, Virginia 23219, epage@eckertseamans.com and cmurphey@eckertseamans.com; Sue Benedek, Associate General Counsel, Lumen

\(^{15}\) The assigned Staff attorney is identified on the Commission's website, sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information, by clicking "Docket Search," then clicking "Search by Case Information," and entering the case number, PUR-2021-00246 in the appropriate box.
Technologies, Inc., 240 N. Third Street, Suite 300, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101,
sue.benedek@lumen.co; Howard J. Symons, Esquire, and John L. Flynn, Esquire, Jenner &
Block LLP, 1099 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20001
hsymons@jenner.com, jflynn@jenner.com; and C. Meade Browder, Jr., Senior Assistant
Attorney General, Division of Consumer Counsel, Office of the Attorney General, 202 N. 9th
Street, 8th Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23219-3424, mbrowder@oag.state.va.us.

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