

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 25-0396-PET

Petition of Schurz Broadband Group, Inc. for approval of a controlling interest in Champlain Broadband, LLC, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 515	
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Order entered: 05/29/2025

ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER

In this Order, the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) adopts the following proposal for decision.

PROPOSAL FOR DECISION

I. INTRODUCTION

This case concerns a petition filed by Schurz Broadband Group (“SBG”) pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 515 to approve SBG’s acquisition of a controlling interest in Champlain Broadband LLC (“Champlain”), a company that holds a certificate of public good (“CPG”) to operate a telecommunications company and a CPG to operate a cable television company.¹

Based on the below findings, I recommend that the Commission determine that the proposed acquisition will promote the public good and approve the proposed acquisition under 30 V.S.A. §§ 107 and 515.

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On February 28, 2025, SBG filed a petition, cover letter, and prefiled testimony in support of its request to approve its acquisition of a controlling interest in Champlain.

On May 9, 2025, the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) filed comments on the petition recommending that the Commission approve the petition without further hearing or investigation.

No other comments were received on the petition.

No party has requested an evidentiary hearing or objected to the prefiled testimony and exhibits. I have reviewed the application and accompanying documents and have determined

¹ *Joint petition of Champlain Broadband, LLC, City of Burlington doing business as Burlington Telecom, and Blue Water Holdings LLC for approvals, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 109, 231, and 54; 47 U.S.C. § 214(e); and Section 438(c)(1) of the City of Burlington Charter, Case No. 18-0491-PET, Order of 2/19/19.*

that a hearing is not necessary in this matter. Accordingly, the following prefiled testimony and exhibits are admitted as if presented at a hearing: the prefiled testimony (“Cook pf.”) and affidavit of Austin Cook; exhibits Petitioner-AC-1 through Petitioner-AC-3; and the Department’s comments.²

III. FINDINGS

Based on the petition and its accompanying documents, I have determined that the matter is ready for decision. Based on the evidence of record, I report the following proposed findings to the Commission under 30 V.S.A. § 8(c).

1. In 2019, Champlain purchased Burlington Telecom’s assets. Cook pf. at 3.
2. The Commission issued separate CPGs to Champlain to operate a telecommunications company and a cable television company and designated Champlain an eligible telecommunications carrier. Cook pf. at 3.
3. Champlain is solely owned by Schurz Communications, Inc. (“SCI”). Cook pf. at 2.
4. SCI owns companies that provide broadband services across the United States. Cook pf. at 3; exh. Petitioner-AC-2 at 1.
5. SCI formed SBG to consolidate ownership of its broadband companies under one holding company. Cook pf. at 3; exh. Petitioner-AC-2 at 2.
6. SCI is the sole owner of SBG. Cook pf. at 4.
7. SCI proposes to transfer its voting membership interests in Champlain to SBG. Cook pf. at 4.
8. If this transfer is approved, SCI would remain the ultimate owner and manager of Champlain, the current Board of Managers of Champlain would not change, and there would be no effect on Champlain’s business plans, operations, or governance. Cook pf. at 4.

IV. DISCUSSION

Under Vermont law, the Commission must approve transfers of ownership of telecommunications companies and cable television companies. Although the parties only

² If any party has an objection to any of these documents being entered into evidence, the party must submit its objection within 14 days of the date this Order is entered.

discussed the application of 30 V.S.A. § 515, there are two different standards that the Commission must apply to resolve this petition. To approve a transfer of ownership of most companies subject to the Commission's jurisdiction, including a telecommunications company, the Commission must determine that the transfer will promote the public good under 30 V.S.A. § 107.³ To approve a transfer of a cable company, the Commission must determine that the transfer will not be contrary to the public good under 30 V.S.A. § 515.⁴

Here, SBG proposes to acquire control of Champlain from its parent company, SCI, and will control all of SCI's American broadband assets.⁵ SBG does not propose changing Champlain's operations, structure, or governance in any way.⁶ SCI would be the sole owner of SBG, and through SBG, would continue to be the sole owner of Champlain.⁷ The Commission has already determined that Champlain has the technical expertise, financial resources, and management experience to operate the telecommunications and cable television systems that the Commission regulates, and that Champlain's operations will promote the general good of the State.⁸ The Commission received no comments or objections that call this determination into question.

V. CONCLUSION

Based on the certifications of the Applicant and the above findings, I recommend that the Commission conclude that this proposed transfer will promote the general good of the State under 30 V.S.A. § 107 and will not be contrary to the public good under 30 V.S.A. § 515.

This proposal for decision has not been circulated to the parties pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 811 because it is not adverse to any party.

³ 30 V.S.A. § 107.

⁴ 30 V.S.A. § 515.

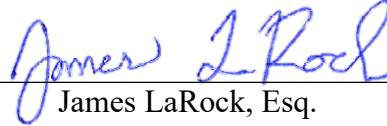
⁵ Cook pf. at 3.

⁶ Cook pf. at 3.

⁷ Cook pf. at 4.

⁸ *Joint petition of Champlain Broadband, LLC, City of Burlington doing business as Burlington Telecom, and Blue Water Holdings LLC for approvals, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 109, 231, and 501; 47 U.S.C. § 214(e); and Section 438(c)(1) of the City of Burlington Charter, Case No. 18-0491-PET, Order of 2/19/19 at 47.*

Date: May 29, 2025



James LaRock, Esq.
Hearing Officer

VI. ORDER


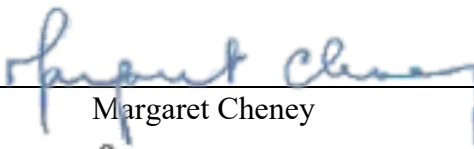
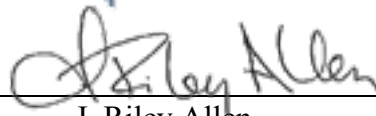
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED by the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) that:

1. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 107 and 515, the transfer of control of Champlain Broadband, LLC, from Schurz Communications, Inc., to Schurz Broadband Group is approved.

2. The existing certificates of public good held by Champlain Broadband, LLC, to provide telecommunications services and cable television services remain in effect under their existing terms and conditions.


3. Champlain Broadband, LLC’s designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for Lifeline Purposes under 47 U.S.C. § 214(e) shall remain in effect under its existing terms and conditions.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 29th day of May, 2025.

 _____)) PUBLIC UTILITY
Edward McNamara)	
 _____)) COMMISSION
Margaret Cheney)	
 _____)) OF VERMONT
J. Riley Allen)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: May 29, 2025

Attest: 

Clerk of the Commission

Notice to Readers: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Commission (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: puc.clerk@vermont.gov)

Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 30 days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further order by this Commission or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 28 days of the date of this decision and Order.

PUC Case No. 25-0396-PET - SERVICE LIST

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