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June 3, 2016

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Jun 03, 2016

APSC

## **VIA HAND DELIVERY**

Walter L. Thomas, Jr., Secretary  
Alabama Public Service Commission  
RSA Union Building  
100 North Union Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

**Re: Farmers Telecommunications Corporation's Section 63.71 Application to the  
Federal Communications Commission for Discontinuance of Service**

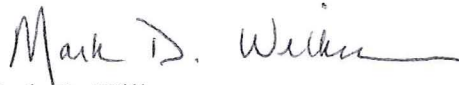
Dear Mr. Thomas:

Attached hereto for electronic filing with the Alabama Public Service Commission ("the Commission") is a copy of the Section 63.71 Application of Farmers Telecommunications Corporation filed today with the Federal Communications Commission for approval to discontinue certain voice, video and data services, as more fully described in the application, in certain portions of Jackson and Marshall counties in northeastern Alabama. A copy of the application and its attachments is being provided to the Commission pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 63.71(a), which requires notification of such application to the public utility commission of the state in which the discontinuance of service is proposed.

As always, thank you in advance for your courtesies in this matter. Please direct any questions regarding the application to my office.

Very Truly Yours,

WILKERSON & BRYAN, P.C.

  
Mark D. Wilkerson

Enclosure

cc: J. Frederick Johnson

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MARK D. WILKERSON

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June 3, 2016

## **Via Electronic Comment Filing System**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

### **Re: Section 63.71 Application of Farmers Telecommunications Corporation**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Farmers Telecommunications Corporation ("FTC"), enclosed please find a Section 63.71 application seeking approval for the discontinuance of certain voice, video and data services, as more fully described in the application, in certain portions of Jackson and Marshall counties in northeastern Alabama. A separate notice of the discontinuance is being filed with the International Bureau pursuant to Section 63.19 of the Commission's Rules (47 C.F.R. § 63.19). No other services are being discontinued by FTC at this time.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,



Mark D. Wilkerson

Enclosure

cc: J. Frederick Johnson, President

**BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

**In the Matter of** )  
 )  
**Section 63.71 Application of Farmers** )  
**Telecommunications Corporation for** )  
**Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of the** )  
**Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to** )  
**Discontinue Provision of Service** )

**SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION OF  
FARMERS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION**

Farmers Telecommunications Corporation ("FTC"), a competitive local exchange carrier, hereby applies for authority pursuant to Section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214(a), and Section 63.71 of the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") rules, 47 C.F.R. § 63.71, to discontinue the provision of voice, video and data services, including local and interexchange (national and international long distance) telephone services, to members of the North Alabama Electric Cooperative ("NAEC") in certain portions of Jackson and Marshall counties in Alabama, effective August 31, 2016.

Pursuant to a Facilities and Services Agreement (the "Agreement") entered into by FTC and NAEC, effective August 1, 2013, FTC agreed to provide the above-described telecommunications services to NAEC's members by interconnecting with an optical fiber access network constructed by NAEC through a Broadband Initiatives Program ("BIP") Grant awarded to NAEC by the USDA Rural Utilities Service. The parties have determined that they will not renew their Agreement; NAEC has represented to FTC that NAEC has made arrangements with another telecommunications provider who will offer telecommunication services to NAEC's membership, and FTC will discontinue providing telecommunications services to NAEC's members on or about August 31, 2016, or as soon thereafter as the necessary



regulatory approvals are obtained. FTC will not transfer its customer base to any other telecommunications provider as a part of this plan – it will simply discontinue providing existing service to NAEC members, subject to advance notice and an opportunity for such subscribers to obtain services elsewhere.

As required by 47 C.F.R. § 63.71(a) and (b), FTC provides the following information:

**Name and Address of Carrier (47 C.F.R. §§ 63.71(a)(1), (b)(2)):**

Farmers Telecommunications Corporation  
144 McCurdy Avenue North  
P.O. Box 217  
Rainsville, Alabama 35986

**Date of Planned Service Discontinuance (47 C.F.R. §§ 63.71(a)(1), (b)(2)):**

Contingent on FCC approval therefor, FTC will cease providing all voice, video and data services, including local and interexchange (national and international long distance) telephone services, to NAEC's members, who are located in Jackson and Marshall counties, Alabama, effective August 31, 2016; however, NAEC members may begin transitioning to another telecommunications carrier before that date. FTC will cease providing services to any NAEC member who requests cessation of service prior to the discontinuance date of August 31, 2016, as requested by the customer.

**Points of Geographic Areas of Service Affected (47 C.F.R. §§ 63.71(a)(3), (b)(2)):**

FTC seeks authority to discontinue services to NAEC members residing in Jackson and Marshall counties in northeastern Alabama.

**Brief Description of Type of Service Affected (47 C.F.R. §§ 63.71(a)(3), (b)(2)):**

The services being discontinued to NAEC members consist of the following individual services and packages: Unlimited Countywide and Nationwide Calling, including local and long distance service to all fifty states, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands, and calling features;

High Speed Internet, download/upload of up to 20 Mbps or 50 Mbps; and Digital Television Service, consisting of expanded basic digital television, high definition access and premium network channels.

**Brief Description of the Dates and Methods of Notice to All Affected Customers (47 C.F.R. § 63.71(b)(3)):**

On June 3, 2016, FTC sent affected NAEC customers written notice of the planned discontinuance by First Class U.S. Mail in accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 63.71(a). A copy of the notification sent to the affected subscribers is attached to this Application as Exhibit "A."

Copies of this Application are being sent via First Class U.S. Mail to the Alabama Public Service Commission, Alabama Governor Robert Bentley, and the Special Assistant for Telecommunications under the Secretary of Defense, as required by 47 C.F.R. § 63.71(a). In addition, a separate notice of this discontinuance is being filed with the International Bureau pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 63.19.

**Regulatory Classification of Carrier (47 C.F.R. § 63.71(b)(4)):**

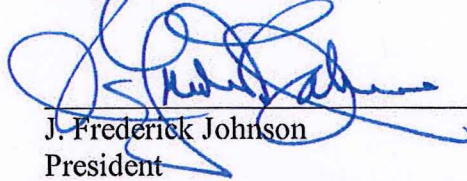
FTC is considered non-dominant with respect to the domestic services to be discontinued. Questions about this Application may be addressed to FTC's Counsel, Mark D. Wilkerson, Esq., Wilkerson & Bryan, P.C., 405 South Hull Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104, (334) 265-1500, or [mark@wilkersonbryan.com](mailto:mark@wilkersonbryan.com).

**Conclusion:**

The public convenience and necessity will not be adversely affected by the discontinuance of the services described herein to NAEC's members. Advance notice has been provided to all affected customers, giving them ample time to arrange substitute services, which are readily available. Alternative service arrangements include, but are not limited to, service

obtained through the arrangement NAEC represents it has in place with Crosstel, Inc. (Cross Communications), a telecommunications provider located in West Point, Georgia, effective August 1, 2016, and FTC's interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service, which is being offered to NAEC's members. FTC therefore respectfully requests that the Commission approve this Section 63.71 Application.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Frederick Johnson  
President

Farmers Telecommunications Corporation  
144 McCurdy Ave. North  
P.O. Box 217  
Rainsville, Alabama 35986  
(256) 638-2144  
fjohnson@staff.farmerstel.com

June 3, 2016



**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

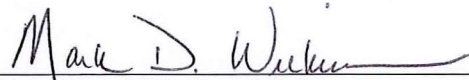
I, Mark D. Wilkerson, certify that I have, on this 3rd day of June, 2016, served copies of the foregoing Section 63.71 Application of Farmers Telecommunications Corporation by U.S.

Mail, postage prepaid, to the following:

The Honorable Robert J. Bentley, Governor  
State of Alabama  
State Capitol  
600 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Walter L. Thomas, Jr., Secretary  
Alabama Public Service Commission  
RSA Union Building  
100 North Union Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

Secretary of Defense  
Attn: Special Assistant for Telecommunications  
Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MARK D. WILKERSON  
Counsel for Farmers Telecommunications  
Corporation



*We Keep You Connected*

P.O. Box 217, Rainsville, AL 35986 • 256-638-2144 • 866-638-2144

June 3, 2016

**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF DISCONTINUATION OF SERVICE**  
**from Farmers Telecommunications Corporation About Your Voice, Video and Data Services**

Pending applicable regulatory approvals, effective **August 31, 2016**, Farmers Telecommunications Corporation (FTC) will cease providing existing voice, video and data services, including local and interexchange (national and international long distance) telephone services, to North Alabama Electric Cooperative (NAEC) members in Jackson and Marshall counties in Alabama. If you have received this notice, you are among the customers for whom FTC will no longer be providing such voice, video or data services.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier, or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 15 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. You may file your comments electronically through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System using the docket number established in the Commission's public notice for this proceeding, or you may address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the §63.71 Application of Farmers Telecommunications Corporation. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

On or after **August 31, 2016**, subject to approval from the FCC, your existing service from FTC will be discontinued. NAEC customers who wish to continue receiving these services have the following options:

- 1) You may contact other telecommunications providers about options for receiving voice, video and/or data services from those providers.
- 2) Residential NAEC customers may contact FTC Customer Service at the numbers below about converting the switched voice services they are currently receiving from FTC to FTC's interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service. The conversion requires you to obtain broadband Internet service from another provider. You may then receive an FTC bundle including unlimited nationwide calling with calling features for \$30 per month.

FTC is thankful for the opportunity to have served NAEC's members over the past two years. Our customer service representatives are available to answer any questions you may have regarding this notice. As always, for any customer service and/or billing issues or complaints, you may reach our customer service representatives at 256-638-2144, or toll-free at 866-638-2144.

Sincerely,  
J. F. Johnson, President  
Farmers Telecommunications Corporation





## Your submission has been accepted

**ECFS Filing Receipt -  
Confirmation number:  
201663471940****Proceeding**

Name	Subject
INBOX- 1.41	MISCELLANEOUS

**Contact Info**

**Name of Filer:** Farmers Telecommunications Corporation  
**Email Address:** mark@wilkersonbryan.com  
**Attorney/Author Name:** Mark D. Wilkerson  
**Lawfirm Name (required if represented by counsel):** Wilkerson & Bryan, P.C.

**Address**

**Address For:** Law Firm  
**Address Line 1:** P.O. Box 830  
**City:** Montgomery  
**State:** ALABAMA  
**Zip:** 36101  
**+4:** 0830

**Details**

**Type of Filing:** APPLICATION

**Document(s)**

File Name	Custom Description	Size
00169934.PDF	Section 63.71 Application of Farmers Telecommunications Corporation	2 MB

**Disclaimer**

This confirmation verifies that ECFS has received and accepted your filing. However, your filing will be rejected by ECFS if it contains macros, passwords, redlining, read-only formatting, a virus, or automated links to other documents.

Filings are generally processed and made available for online viewing within one business day of receipt. You may use the link below to check on the status of your filing:

[http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/comment/confirm?  
confirmation=201663471940](http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/comment/confirm?confirmation=201663471940)

For any problems please contact the Help Desk at 202-418-0193.