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LA Public Service Commission

BEFORE THE  
LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

VOLT BROADBAND, LLC,  
*EX PARTE*

DOCKET NO. \_\_\_\_\_

IN RE: APPLICATION OF VOLT BROADBAND, LLC FOR AUTHORITY TO  
PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 301(F) OF THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICES  
COMMISSION'S REGULATIONS FOR COMPETITION IN THE LOCAL  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS MARKET FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
OPERATING AS AN INTERCONNECTED VOICE OVER INTERNET  
PROTOCOL PROVIDER STATEWIDE

APPLICATION

NOW COMES, Volt Broadband, LLC ("Volt"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northeast Louisiana Power Cooperative, Inc. ("NELPCO"), through undersigned counsel, which respectfully requests the Louisiana Public Service Commission ("LPSC" or "Commission"), pursuant to Section 301(E) of the Louisiana Public Services Commission's Regulations for Competition in the Local Telecommunications Market, to grant Volt a Certificate of Authority to operate as an interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol ("VoIP") provider and Competitive Local Exchange Carrier ("CLEC") statewide in Louisiana.

Copies of all correspondence and filings with the Commission should be directed to:

Luke F. Piontek  
George W. Hardy  
Daniel T. Price  
Roedel, Parsons, Blache, Fontana,  
Balhoff & McCollister  
8440 Jefferson Highway, Suite 301  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809  
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Volt Broadband, LLC's  
Application for TSP Certificate of Authority  
LPSC Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

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F21-59510

**PUBLIC VERSION – ATTACHMENT C NOT INCLUDED  
PURSUANT TO RULE 12.1**

**APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY**

Pursuant to General Order No. R-31891, dated March 11, 2014. Section 301.E, Applicant states as follows:

**1. Applicant's Legal Name and Address**

Volt Broadband, LLC

**Physical Address**

150 Christian Drive  
Rayville, LA, 71269  
Telephone: (318) 728-1022

**Mailing Address**

PO Box 1577  
Winnsboro, LA, 71295

**Federal Tax ID: 85-3763846**

**State Tax ID: 2376003001**

**2. Principal Corporate Officers**

**Volt Broadband, LLC Operations Manager**

Jeff Churchwell  
1411 Landis Street  
Winnsboro, LA, 71295  
Telephone: (318) 435-4523  
FAX: (318) 435-3887

**3. Other Officers or Employees Responsible for Louisiana Operations**

John Moroni  
477 Moroni Road  
Winnsboro, LA 71295  
Telephone: (318) 729-3249

Charles Hixon  
61 Stevenson Drive  
Rayville, LA 71269  
Telephone: (318) 372-3422

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Weldon Fitch  
11612 Wolf Creek Drive  
Bastrop, LA 71220  
Telephone: (318) 235-1031

Steve Pylant  
292 Southern Road  
Delhi, LA 71232  
Telephone: (318) 341-3701

**4. Business Organization Structure**

Applicant is a Louisiana Limited Liability Company with its principal place of business set forth in Item 1 above. Applicant is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northeast Louisiana Power Cooperative, Inc., a domestic corporation domiciled in Franklin Parish, Louisiana. Please see **Attachment A** for a copy of Applicant's Articles of Organization.

**5. Authorization to Do Business in Louisiana**

Please see **Attachment B** for a copy of Applicant's Louisiana Secretary of State Certificate of Good Standing.

**6. Applicant's Agent for Service of Process**

Applicant's agent for service of process in Louisiana is as follows:

Luke Piontek  
Roedel Parsons  
8440 Jefferson Highway  
Ste. 301  
Baton Rouge, LA, 70809

**7. Financial, Managerial, and Technical Qualifications**

**(a) Financial Qualifications**

To demonstrate its financial qualifications, Applicant submits the most recent financial statements of NELPCO, Applicant's parent company, as **Confidential Attachment C.**

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Applicant's parent NELPCO intends to borrow funds to construct the broadband system regarding which this application is being submitted. *See* Docket Order No. S-35745 for the Staff Order of Non-Opposition to NELPCO's Financing Plan.

Pursuant to Rule 12.1 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, **Confidential Attachment C** is trade secret, proprietary and/or confidential information, and not necessary to be disclosed to the public, and thus, shall be kept confidential and shall be exempt from public disclosure.

**(b) Managerial and Technical Qualifications**

Volt plans to partner with the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative ("NRTC"), an association representing more than 1,500 rural utilities, in connection with its provision of telecommunications services. NRTC will support Volt's managerial and technical ability in providing telecommunication services. NRTC has assisted dozens of rural electric cooperatives in the design, construction and operation of broadband systems and the associated voice services provided to their customers. NRTC partners with various companies to assist in operating telecommunications systems, including Alianza, which is the company Volt plans to engage through NRTC.

Volt currently has its Application for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier designation pending before the Commission (Docket No. S-35847). Volt has no other Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CCN") or other applications pending in this or any other state. Please see **Attachment D** which lists the pertinent principal officer of Alianza that Volt plans to engage and their relevant experience.

**(c) Technical Ability**

For a description of Volt's technical ability, please refer to **Attachment D**.

**8. Description of the Proposed Services**

As a winner in the 2020 Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase 1 ("RDOF-1") Auction, NELPCO formed Volt for purposes of designing, developing, and operating the broadband internet system must meet its public interest obligation by offering broadband internet service, defined as a minimum of 25 megabits-per-second ("Mbps") downstream and 3 Mbps upstream ("25/3"), through a combination of Fiber-to-the-Home ("FTTH") and Fixed Wireless ("FWA") components, and standalone voice service to all eligible locations in the census block groups which it won in the RDOF-1 Auction. Volt's FWA would provide a minimum speed of 50 Mbps down / 5 Mbps up and a maximum speed of 100 Mbps down / 10 Mbps up. Volt would provide a minimum symmetric speed of 200 Mbps – down and up – and a maximum symmetric speed of 1 gigabit (1000 Mbps) – down and up – over the FTTH portion of the broadband system. 1 gigabit speed is the fastest available internet speed at present.

Applicant will also provide its customers with voice grade access to the Public Switched Telephone Network ("PSTN") through its provision of interconnected VoIP service. Applicant seeks statewide authority to provide, and will be able to offer voice grade access to, the PSTN on a statewide basis. **Attachment E** is a map of Applicant's initial proposed service area for broadband and eligible telecommunication carrier services.

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**9. Point of Contact to Which Service of Other Customer Complaints Should be Directed.**

Jeff Churchwell  
150 Christian Drive  
Rayville, LA, 71269  
Telephone: (318) 435-4523

Nora Pylant  
150 Christian Drive  
Rayville, LA, 71269  
Telephone: (318) 435-4523

Johnny Williams  
150 Christian Drive  
Rayville, LA, 71269  
Telephone: (318) 439-4358

**10. List of Other States Where Applicant Has Applied to Operate as a Telecommunications Provider**

Applicant and its parent company have not yet applied to operate as a telecommunications service provider in any other state. Applicant and its parent company have not been authorized, nor denied authority, to operate as a telecommunications service provider in any other state.

**11. Illustrative Tariff**

An illustrative tariff in compliance with the requirements in Section 401 of the Commission's Regulations is attached as **Attachment F**. Applicant will be constructing a fiber optic network, among other capital commitments, over which to provide broadband and VoIP services on a resold basis. Therefore, Applicant will provide notice to the Commission once the necessary network is complete and will provide any necessary revisions and an Effective Date for the illustrative tariff at that time. Further, NELPCO is required to submit periodic reports and

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information to LPSC Staff regarding the construction plan, development and construction status regarding the broadband system pursuant to LPSC Order No. S-35745.

**PRAYER**

Wherefore, Volt Broadband, LLC respectfully prays that, pursuant to Section 301(E) of the Louisiana Public Service Commission's Regulations for Competition in the Local Telecommunications Market, the Louisiana Public Service Commission grant Volt Broadband, LLC a Certificate of Authority to operate as an interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol ("VoIP") provider and Competitive Local Exchange Carrier ("CLEC") statewide in Louisiana, and for all other relief available under the law and the facts.

Respectfully submitted:

**ROEDEL, PARSONS, KOCH, BLACHE,  
BALHOFF & McCOLLISTER**


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Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Telephone: (225) 929-7033

Facsimile: (225) 928-4925

[Lpiontek@roedelparsons.com](mailto:Lpiontek@roedelparsons.com)

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Luke F. Piontek (Bar Roll # 19979)  
George W. Hardy, IV (Bar Roll # 38012)  
Daniel T. Price (Bar Roll #39500)

***Counsel for Volt Broadband, LLC***