

ORDER NO. 25-320

ENTERED Aug 20 2025

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

CP 955, CP 1695

In the Matters of

BENDTEL INC. (CP 955)
and
VERO BROADBAND, LLC (CP 1695),

Petition for Partial Waiver of OAR 860-032-0020.

ORDER

DISPOSITION: STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED

At its public meeting on August 19, 2025, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon adopted Staff's recommendation in this matter. The Staff Report with the recommendation is attached as Appendix A.

BY THE COMMISSION:



Alison Lackey
Chief Administrative Law Judge



A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order under ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-001-0720. A copy of the request must also be served on each party to the proceedings as provided in OAR 860-001-0180(2). A party may appeal this order by filing a petition for review with the Circuit Court for Marion County in compliance with ORS 183.484.

ITEM NO. CA6

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: August 19, 2025**

REGULAR _____ **CONSENT** X **EFFECTIVE DATE** _____ **N/A**

DATE: August 4, 2025

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Nicola Peterson

THROUGH: Bryan Conway and Russ Beitzel **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: BENDTEL INC. and VERO BROADBAND, LLC:
(Docket Nos. CP 955 and CP 1695)
Petition for Partial Waiver of OAR 860-032-0020.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission grant the petition by BendTel, Inc. and Vero Broadband, LLC (collectively, Petitioners) seeking a partial waiver under OAR 860-032-0020(11)(b) for the timing of notification of abandonment of service.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should grant Petitioners' request for a partial waiver of OAR 860-032-0020.

Applicable Rule or Law

OAR 860-032-0020(11) governs abandonment of service by competitive telecommunications service providers. This rule requires the provider to give 90 days' notice to both the affected customers and the Commission prior to the abandonment of service

OAR 860-032-0020(11)(b) requires a copy of the notice to be filed with the Commission at the same time the company mails notification to affected customers.

Docket Nos. CP 955/CP 1695
August 4, 2025
Page 2

Pursuant to OAR 860-032-0000, the Commission may waive any of its Division 32 rules for “good cause shown.”

Analysis

Petitioners are both competitive telecommunications providers certificated to provide telecommunication services in Oregon. BendTel Inc. was granted a certificate of authority on August 17, 2001.¹ Vero Broadband LLC was granted a certificate of authority on March 19, 2025, with additional services authorized on July 22, 2025.²

On June 2, 2025, Petitioners filed notice with the Commission of a transaction that will result in the transfer of BendTel’s customer contracts as well as other telecommunications assets to Vero. The Petitioners also notified the Commission of the abandonment of competitive telecommunications services by BendTel as a result of the transaction. Since BendTel’s customers will be served by Vero following the transfer, the customers of BendTel will not experience any disruption to their services.

BendTel’s regulated customers were sent notices of the transfer on May 28, 2025, which is at least 90 days prior to the proposed assignment date of September 1, 2025. OAR 860-032-0020(11)(b) requires a filing with the Commission at the same time. However, as stated above, the Commission was not informed until June 2, 2025.

Conclusion

As there was a very short gap between the customer notice and the notice being filed with the Commission, and both the customers and the Commission received 90 days notice of the proposed transfer, Staff supports granting the waiver.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Grant BendTel, Inc. and Vero Broadband, LLC’s request for partial waiver of OAR 860-032-0020(11)(b) for notification of abandonment of service.

¹ See Docket No. CP 955, Order No. 01-737.

² See Docket No. CP 1695, Order Nos. 25-110 and 25-271.