

**BEFORE THE
TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**PETITION FOR MERGER
of
NEXUS GROUP, INC.
into
PEACE COMMUNICATIONS, LLC**

25-00019

Peace Communications, LLC (“Peace”) and Nexus Group, Inc. (“Nexus”) hereby seek post-closing approval of the merger of Nexus into Peace. Closing of the transaction occurred on June 30, 2023. Following the transaction, Nexus ceased to exist as an independent entity and accordingly Peace hereby requests cancellation of its authority as a competing telecommunications service provider effective immediately upon approval of this Petition.

I. THE PARTIES

Peace was incorporated under the laws of the State of Tennessee on August 7, 2009. Its principal office is located in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Peace was originally authorized to provide telecommunications services in Docket 09-00149 on January 25, 2010. Peace provides broadband, voice, advanced information technology services, and data centers. Nexus was an internet and voice services provider in Nashville and its operations were merged into Peace’s, inclusive of Nexus’ Nashville employees and office. Nexus also controlled authority from the Commission to operate as a telecommunications carrier in Tennessee. Nexus failed to disclose this fact prior to closing, and in fact, Peace did not become aware of the license’s existence until September 2024. Neither party opted into market regulation under the Commission’s rules, and as a result, this Petition is necessary to complete the transaction.

II. THE TRANSACTION

Peace closed its acquisition of Nexus on June 30, 2023. At that time, all the assets and customers of Nexus were transferred to Peace. Accordingly, Peace and Nexus request cancellation of Nexus’ authority to operate as well as the cancellation of any tariffs filed by Nexus. Peace will maintain its current authority to operate for the combined entities.

III. CUSTOMER IMPACT

The transition to Peace was largely transparent to the affected customers. There were no substantial changes to rates, terms or conditions of service and customer service contact information remained the same for customers in the Nashville market. Most customers have individual account managers assigned to their account and there is no plan to make any changes to this arrangement. Finally, Nexus customers did not incur any charges due to the change in service provider from Nexus to Peace.

Peace and Nexus provided written notice of the merger to Nexus' customers on the day of closing. The customer notification impacted only unregulated services- no local exchange services were provided to any of the affected customers, only broadband, VoIP, and managed IT services. The notification advised customers that: (1) the pending change of their service provider to Peace; (2) the existence of a plan to transition customers seamlessly; (3) a commitment to provide regular updates going forward as the companies consolidate their organizations; and (4) the toll-free number which customers could call for more information. A copy of the customer notification is attached as Exhibit A.

IV. CONTACT INFORMATION

Correspondence with regard to this filing should be sent to:

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300 Valley Street, Suite 303
Sausalito, CA 94965
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and

Steve Blankenship
Peace Communications, LLC
1100 Central Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37403
423.664.8419

V. PUBLIC INTEREST STATEMENT

The merger has provided enhanced operational capabilities and economic efficiencies used by Peace as it extends the geographical reach of its services. Peace is providing a competitive alternative in all the markets it serves. Consequently, granting this Application is consistent with the public interest.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated above, Peace submits that the public interest, convenience and necessity would be furthered by a grant of this Petition. Peace respectfully requests approval of the merger between Peace Communications and Nexus Group and cancellation of Nexus Group's certificate as requested herein.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristopher E. Twomey
Regulatory Consultant to Peace

Date: February 28, 2025

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF MARIN

VERIFICATION

I, Kristopher Twomey, hereby declare, under penalty of perjury, that I am regulatory consultant to Peace Communications; that I am authorized to make this verification on behalf of both named companies; that I have read the foregoing Petition; and that the facts stated therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.



Kristopher E. Twomey
Regulatory Consultant to Peace Communications

Exhibit A

Customer Notification



To our valued customer,

We have exciting news to share for 2023: **The Nexus Group has agreed to a strategic acquisition by Peace Communications, LLC.**

Peace Communications, LLC is an Information Technology company providing Co-Location, Voice, Data and Managed IT Services throughout the Southeast and across the US. They have offices in Chattanooga, TN, Nashville, TN, Huntsville, AL, Birmingham, AL, and Greenville, SC. Thanks to the expanded footprint and combined strengths of the new organization, customers in Knoxville, TN and Nashville, TN area will enjoy additional services that positively impact the communities where we live, work, and play. Here are just a few of the new or expanded solutions on the horizon:

- **Premium Cloud Hosted Telephony** with the scalability and flexibility to meet the changing needs of local businesses and organizations.
- **Unified Communications** solutions that enable organizations to seamlessly integrate voice, video, instant messaging, and more.
- **Comprehensive IT Managed Services** for your workstations, servers, network equipment, and firewalls which can bring efficiency, security, and continuity to area businesses and organizations.
- **Expanded regional data centers** to help companies increase server performance and reliability, enhance security and compliance, and offer better customer service through faster, more reliable data access.
- **High-capacity internet connections** with speeds up to 100 Gbps, essential for businesses and organizations that rely on cloud computing, streaming, and other data-intensive activities.
- **Expanded support resources and exceptional customer services** from a team committed to helping you implement, manage, and grow your data and communications capability.

While the new company will operate under the Peace Communications banner moving forward, the teams from The Nexus Group and Peace Communications have a plan in place to make the transition as seamless as possible. The Nexus Group has been offering Co-Location, Data and Voice Services since 1994 and Peace Communications has been offering Co-Location, Data, Voice Services since 2001. The newly combined organization brings a highly skilled and experienced team to help make you more successful. You'll receive more news in the coming weeks as we combine and consolidate our organizations.

From all of us at Peace Communications, thank you for the opportunity to continue being your trusted partner. We look forward to working with you to build a bright future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Peace".

Jim Peace
Chief Executive Officer, Peace Communications, LLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Baird".

Steve Baird
Chief Executive Officer, The Nexus Group