

# Morgan Lewis

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UT-220919

December 13, 2022

## **VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Amanda Maxwell, Executive Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
records@wutc.wa.gov

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COMMISSION

## **Re: Notice of Proposed *Pro Forma* Consolidations Affecting Zayo Group, LLC and Electric Lightwave, LLC d/b/a Allstream**

Dear Executive Secretary Maxwell:

By this letter, Zayo Group, LLC ("Zayo Group") and Electric Lightwave, LLC d/b/a Allstream ("Electric Lightwave" and together with Zayo Group, the "Parties") notify the Commission of the proposed *pro forma* consolidations of Electric Lightwave and its parent company, Allstream Business US, LLC ("EL-Parent") into Zayo Group, with Zayo Group remaining as the surviving entity (herein referred to as the "*Pro Forma Consolidations*"). The *Pro Forma Consolidations* are part of the Company's (as defined below) efforts to simplify its corporate structure, reduce the reporting and accounting burdens (and the burden on the regulatory commissions who receive such reports), and provide operational efficiencies. Subject to receipt of applicable regulatory approvals, the Parties propose to complete the *Pro Forma Consolidations* as soon as possible with the *pro forma* consolidation of EL-Parent into Zayo Group being completed no later than December 31, 2022.

Since Commission action is not required to complete the *Pro Forma Consolidations*, the Parties submit this letter for informational purposes.

### **Description of the Parties**

Zayo Group and Electric Lightwave are both Delaware limited liability companies. Electric Lightwave is a wholly owned, direct subsidiary of EL-Parent, an Oregon corporation and wholly owned, direct subsidiary of Zayo Group. Zayo Group is a wholly owned, direct subsidiary of Zayo Group Holdings, Inc. ("Holdings" and together with its subsidiaries, including the Parties, the "Company"), a Delaware corporation. Zayo Group and Holdings have a principal office located at 1821 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Unit A, Boulder, Colorado 80301. EL-Parent and Electric Lightwave

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has a principal office located at 18110 SE 34th Street; Building One, Suite 100, Vancouver, Washington 98683.

Zayo Group is a leading provider of bandwidth infrastructure and interconnection services over regional and metropolitan fiber networks. These services enable customers to manage, operate, and scale their telecommunications and data networks. Zayo Group customers consist primarily of wireless service providers, national and regional communications service providers, media/Internet/content companies, governments, banks, and other bandwidth-intensive enterprises. Zayo Group is authorized to provide competitive local exchange, competitive access, and/or interexchange services in the District of Columbia and every state except Alaska and Hawaii. The primary telecommunications service offerings of Zayo Group include high-capacity bandwidth services such as private line, Ethernet, and wavelength services. In Washington, Zayo Group is authorized as a competitively classified telecommunications company pursuant to a Certificate of Registration granted in Docket No. UT-110349. Zayo Group also is authorized by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to provide domestic and international telecommunications services in addition to certain point-to-point wireless services.

Electric Lightwave provides a broad range of communication and networking services to businesses, wholesale carriers, web content providers, government organizations and educational institutions. These services include, but are not limited to, facilities-based local, resold long distance, Internet, broadband transport and data services. Electric Lightwave provides telecommunications services primarily in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah and Washington. In Washington, Electric Lightwave is authorized to provide interexchange private line or special access, intraexchange dark fiber, services, and intrastate interexchange switched telecommunications services pursuant to a Certificate of Registration granted in Docket No. UT-970032, as amended in Docket. Nos. UT- 971128 and UT-970874, and was granted competitive classification in Docket No. UT- 970874.1998. Electric Lightwave also is authorized by the FCC to provide domestic and international telecommunications services.

**Designated Contacts**

Inquiries or copies of any correspondence or other materials pertaining to this filing should be directed to:

For the Parties:

Catherine Wang  
Brett P. Ferenchak  
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1111 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20004-2541  
202-739-3000 (tel)  
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with copies to:

Lauren Lantero  
General Counsel, Corporate  
Zayo Group, LLC  
1821 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Unit A  
Boulder, CO 80301  
lauren.lantero@zayo.com

and:

Douglas Denney  
Vice President, Legal & Regulatory  
Allstream  
18110 SE 34th Street  
Building One, Suite 100  
Vancouver, WA 96383  
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**Description of the Pro Forma Consolidations**

To simplify the Company's corporate structure, Zayo Group is undertaking certain *pro forma* intra-company transactions, including the consolidation of EL-Parent and Electric Lightwave into Zayo Group. The *Pro Forma Consolidations* are expected to result from the mergers of EL-Parent and Electric Lightwave with and into Zayo Group, whereupon the separate existence of EL-Parent and Electric Lightwave will cease and Zayo Group will be the surviving entity.<sup>1</sup>

**Exhibit A** contains diagrams of the corporate ownership structure of the Parties before and after the *Pro Forma Consolidations*.

Upon completion of the *Pro Forma Consolidations*, Zayo Group will establish an "Allstream" division that will continue to operate those portions of the Electric Lightwave business that provide services, primarily traditional voice services, not currently provided by Zayo Group. The Allstream division will utilize the management and operations personnel that currently operate Electric Lightwave. Following completion of the *Pro Forma Consolidations*, an application to cancel the certificate of registration of Electric Lightwave will be filed.

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<sup>1</sup> Depending on the timing of regulatory approvals, (1) these mergers may be completed in short succession or separated by weeks or months and (2) prior to the merger of Electric Lightwave with and into Zayo Group, certain assets and customers of Electric Lightwave may be assigned to Zayo Group.

### **Public Interest Considerations**

The Parties submit that the *Pro Forma Consolidations* described herein is in the public interest. The *Pro Forma Consolidations* will simplify the Company's existing corporate structure and the Company's business will be more efficient from a management, operations, regulatory, accounting, financial and customer perspective since the *Pro Forma Consolidations* will reduce the Company's reporting and accounting burdens and provide other operational efficiencies. As a result of the efficiencies and focus, the Company will become a stronger competitor to the ultimate benefit of consumers.

Furthermore, the *Pro Forma Consolidations* will be seamless to customers and will not result in any change in their services. Zayo Group will utilize the familiar "Allstream" brand with respect to the affected customers that receive services, primarily traditional voice services, not currently provided by Zayo Group. The remaining affected customers will be served under the "Zayo" brand. Regardless, the rates, terms and conditions of their services will not change as a result of the *Pro Forma Consolidations*. A sample of the notice that will be sent to customers of Electric Lightwave regarding the *Pro Forma Consolidations* is provided in **Exhibit B**.

Finally, there will be no change in the managerial qualifications of the telecommunications provider serving the customers affected by the *Pro Forma Consolidations* since the managerial and operations personnel that currently operate Electric Lightwave will continue to operate a portion of the Allstream business as a separate division within Zayo Group and the remaining operations will be overseen by Zayo Group's existing experienced management and operations personnel.

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We would appreciate acknowledgement of receipt and acceptance of this filing, which is being submitted electronically. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Brett P. Ferenchak*

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Catherine Wang  
Brett P. Ferenchak

*Counsel for the Parties*

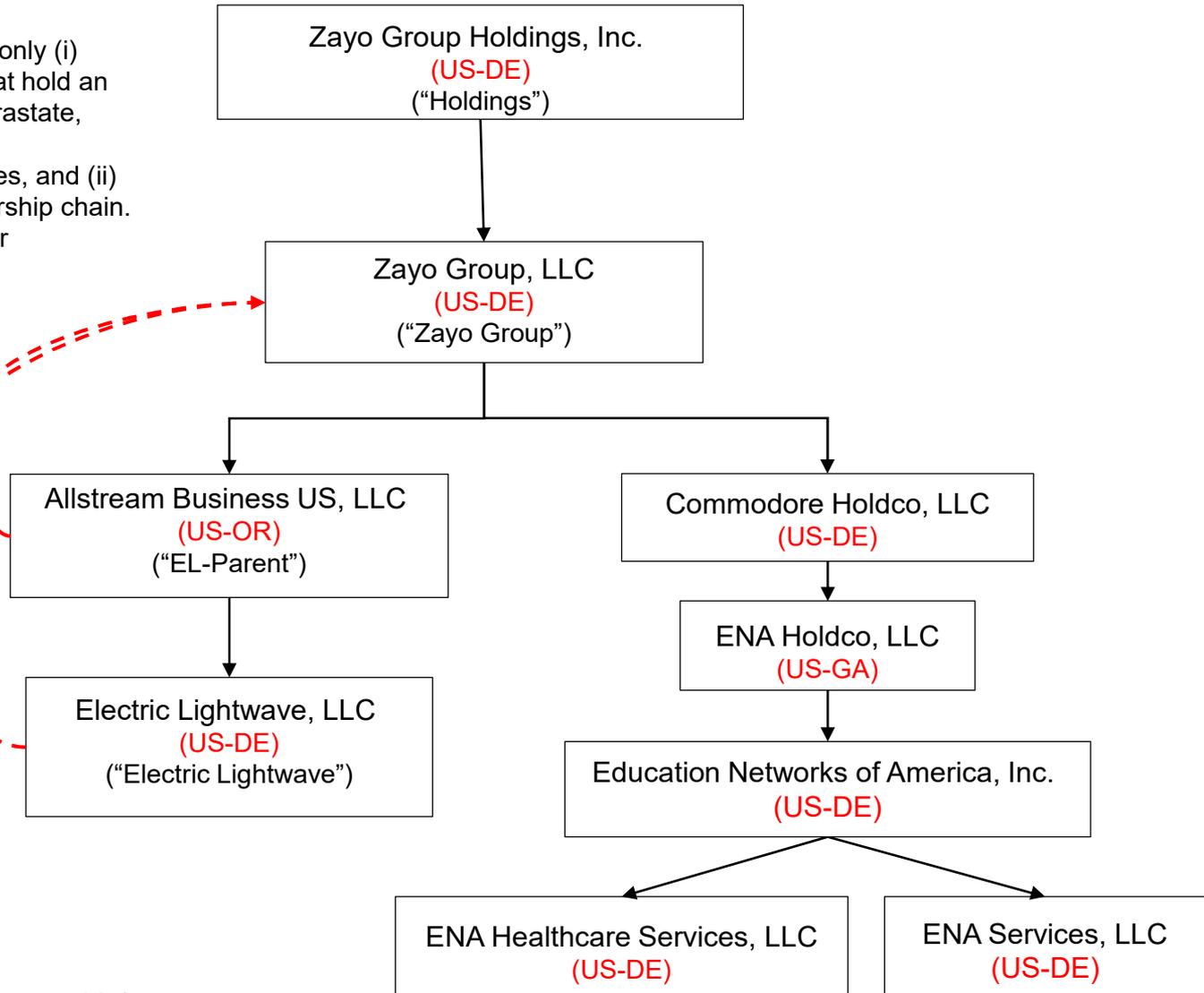
**EXHIBIT A**

Current and Post-Pro Forma Consolidations Corporate Ownership Charts

## CURRENT OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE AND DEPICTION OF *PRO FORMA CONSOLIDATIONS*

\*The entities listed include only (i) subsidiaries of Holdings that hold an authorization to provide intrastate, interstate or international telecommunications services, and (ii) those entities in their ownership chain. The chart excludes all other subsidiaries of Holdings.

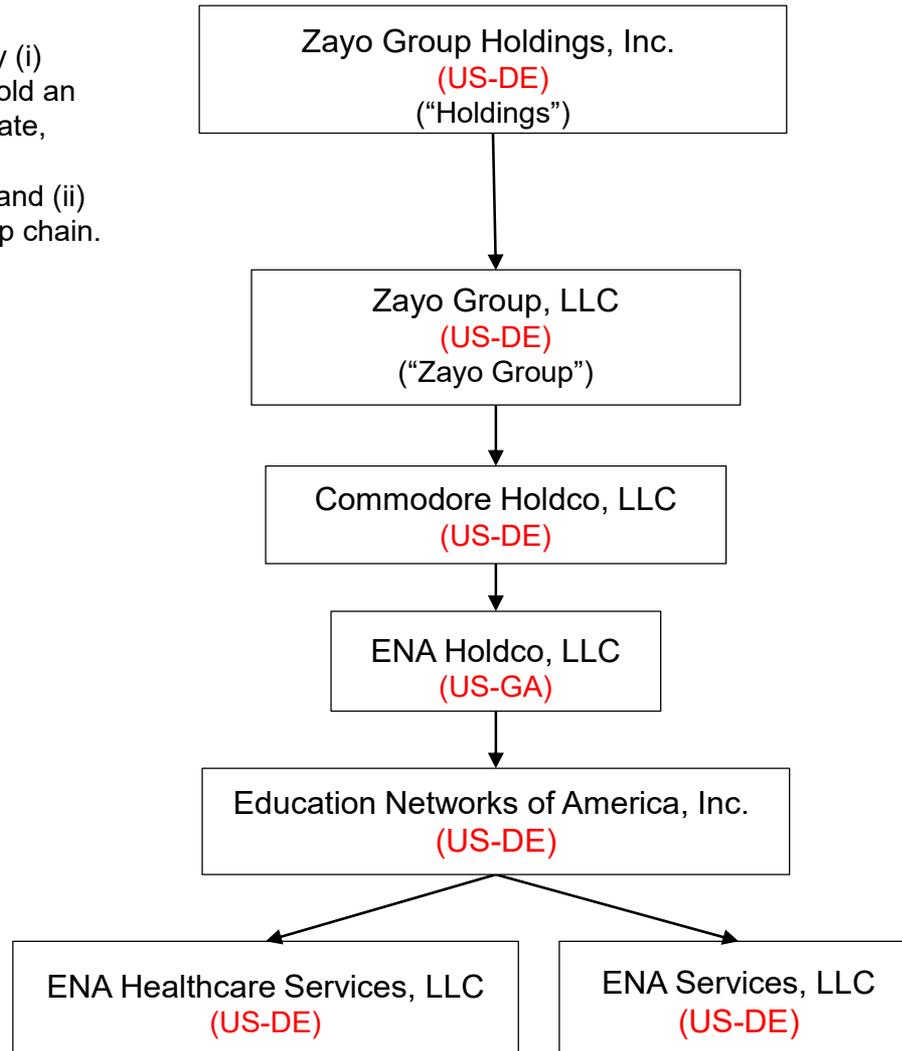
EL-Parent and Electric Lightwave will merge with and into Zayo Group, with Zayo Group surviving the mergers.



\*\*All ownership percentages are 100%.

## POST-PRO FORMA CONSOLIDATIONS OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE

\*The entities listed include only (i) subsidiaries of Holdings that hold an authorization to provide intrastate, interstate or international telecommunications services, and (ii) those entities in their ownership chain. The chart excludes all other subsidiaries of Holdings.



\*\*All ownership percentages are 100%.

## **EXHIBIT B**

### Sample Customer Notice

The affected customers of Electric Lightwave will receive notice of the *Pro Forma Consolidations* through a bill notation. The notice will be provided to customers in their bill issued at least 30 days prior to the *pro forma consolidation of Electric Lightwave into Zayo Group*.

For customers that will continue to be served under the "Allstream" brand, the text of the bill notation will be substantially similar to the following:

On or about [DATE], Electric Lightwave, LLC d/b/a Allstream and its parent company, Zayo Group, LLC, will undertake an internal corporate consolidation. At that time, Zayo Group, LLC will provide your telecommunications services under the "Allstream" brand. Your services and the associated pricing and terms and conditions of service will not change as a result of this internal consolidation. There is no charge associated with this change. You will continue receive bills from Allstream and we will continue to resolve any issues you may have with your account or service using the same customer support numbers: 1-800-360-4467 (Customer Repair) and 1-866-468-3472 (Customer Support).

We recognize that, subject to the terms of your contract, you always have a choice in providers and believe that this internal consolidation will enhance our ability to serve you. We look forward to continuing to provide you with the superior service you are accustomed to receiving and to the opportunity to provide you additional services.

For customers that will be served under the "Zayo" brand, the text of the bill notation will be substantially similar to the following:

On or about [DATE], Electric Lightwave, LLC d/b/a Allstream and its parent company, Zayo Group, LLC, will undertake an internal corporate consolidation. At that time, Zayo Group, LLC will provide your telecommunications services under the "Zayo" brand. Your services and the associated pricing and terms and conditions of service will not change as a result of this internal consolidation. There is no charge associated with this change. You will receive bills from Zayo and we will resolve any issues you may have with your account or service using the following customer support number: 866-364-6033.

We recognize that, subject to the terms of your contract, you always have a choice in providers and believe that this internal consolidation will enhance our ability to serve you. We look forward to continuing to provide you with the superior service you are accustomed to receiving and to the opportunity to provide you additional services.

## **VERIFICATIONS**

## VERIFICATION

I, Lauren Lantero state that I am General Counsel, Corporate of Zayo Group, LLC and its subsidiaries (collectively, the “Company”); that I am authorized to make this Verification on behalf of the Company; that the foregoing filing was prepared under my direction and supervision; and that the contents thereof and the certifications contained therein regarding the Company and its affiliates, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

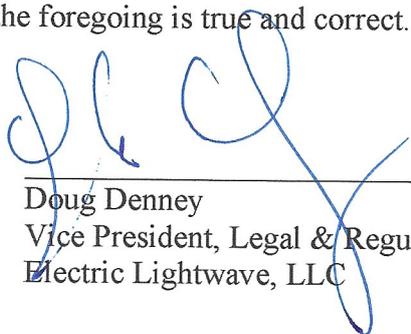
I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lauren Lantero  
General Counsel, Corporate  
Zayo Group, LLC

## VERIFICATION

I, Doug Denney, state that I am Vice President, Legal & Regulatory of Electric Lightwave, LLC (the "Company"); that I am authorized to make this Verification on behalf of the Company; that the foregoing filing was prepared under my direction and supervision; and that the contents thereof and the certifications contained therein regarding the Company and its affiliates, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022.



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Doug Denney  
Vice President, Legal & Regulatory  
Electric Lightwave, LLC