

Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc.  
Form 8-K  
July 02, 2007

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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT  
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported): **July 1, 2007**

**CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS HOLDINGS, INC.**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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| <b>Delaware</b><br>(State of Incorporation) | <b>000-51446</b><br>Commission File Number | <b>02-0636095</b><br>(IRS employer<br>identification no.) |
|---|--|---|

**121 South 17th Street**  
**Mattoon, Illinois**  
(Address of principal executive  
offices)

**61938-3987**  
(Zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(217) 235-3311**

**Not Applicable**  
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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### **Item 1.01 - Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement**

On July 1, 2007, Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. (the “Company”) and North Pittsburgh Systems, Inc. (“North Pittsburgh”) entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the “Merger Agreement”). The Merger Agreement provides for a business combination whereby Fort Pitt Acquisition Sub Inc. (“Merger Sub”), a Pennsylvania corporation and wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, will merge with and into North Pittsburgh (the “Merger”). As a result of the Merger, the separate corporate existence of Merger Sub will cease and North Pittsburgh will continue as the surviving corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company.

At the effective time of the Merger, 80% of the shares of North Pittsburgh common stock (other than shares held in treasury of North Pittsburgh or owned by the Company and Merger Sub) will be converted into the right to receive \$25.00 in cash, without interest, per share, for an approximate total of \$300.1 million in cash, and the remainder of the shares of North Pittsburgh common stock (other than shares held in treasury of North Pittsburgh or owned by the Company and Merger Sub) will be converted into the right to receive 1.1061947 shares of common stock of the Company, or an approximate total of 3.32 million shares of the Company’s common stock. North Pittsburgh’s stockholders may elect to exchange each share of North Pittsburgh common stock for either \$25.00 in cash or 1.1061947 shares of the Company’s common stock, subject to proration so that 80% of the North Pittsburgh shares will be exchanged for cash and 20% for stock.

The Company intends to finance the cash portion of the acquisition price with debt and cash on hand. The Company has obtained a commitment for the financing necessary to complete the transaction from Wachovia Bank, National Association.

The Merger is subject to approval by North Pittsburgh’s stockholders. Approval by the Company’s stockholders is not required. In addition, the Merger is subject to regulatory approvals as well as other customary closing conditions.

The Company and North Pittsburgh have made customary representations, warranties and covenants in the Merger Agreement, including North Pittsburgh agreeing not to solicit alternative transactions or, subject to certain exceptions, to enter into discussions concerning, or provide confidential information in connection with, an alternative transaction. The Merger Agreement contains certain termination rights for both the Company and North Pittsburgh, and further provides that, upon termination of the Merger Agreement under certain circumstances, North Pittsburgh may be obligated to pay the Company a termination fee of \$11.25 million, plus the Company’s out-of-pocket expenses of up to \$1.5 million.

### **Item 8.01 - Other Events.**

On July 2, 2007, the Company and North Pittsburgh announced that they had entered into the Merger Agreement. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated herein by reference. On July 2, 2007, the Company is making a presentation to investors and analysts, a copy of the written materials for which is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.2 and incorporated herein by reference.

#### Safe Harbor

Any statements other than statements of historical facts, including statements about management’s beliefs and expectations, are forward-looking statements and should be evaluated as such. These statements are made on the basis of management’s views and assumptions regarding future events and business performance. Words such as “estimate,” “believe,” “anticipate,” “expect,” and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements (including oral

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representations) involve risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. These risks and uncertainties include the Company's ability to complete the acquisition, successfully integrate North Pittsburgh's operations and realize the synergies from the acquisition, as well as a number of other factors related to the businesses of the Company and North Pittsburgh, including various risks to stockholders of not receiving dividends and risks to the Company's ability to pursue growth opportunities if the Company continues to pay dividends according to the current dividend policy; various risks to the price and volatility of the Company's common stock; the substantial amount of debt and the Company's ability to incur additional debt in the future; the Company's need for a significant amount of cash to service and repay the debt and to pay dividends on the Company's common stock; restrictions contained in the Company's debt agreements that limit the discretion of management in operating the business; the ability to refinance the existing debt as necessary; regulatory changes, rapid development and introduction of new technologies and intense competition in the telecommunications industry; risks associated with the Company's possible pursuit of acquisitions; economic conditions in the Company's and North Pittsburgh's service areas in Illinois, Texas and Pennsylvania; system failures; losses of large customers or government contracts; risks associated with the rights-of-way for the network; disruptions in the relationship with third party vendors; losses of key management personnel and the inability to attract and retain highly qualified management and personnel in the future; changes in the extensive governmental legislation and regulations governing telecommunications providers and the provision of telecommunications services; telecommunications carriers disputing and/or avoiding their obligations to pay network access charges for use of the Company's network; high costs of regulatory compliance; the competitive impact of legislation and regulatory changes in the telecommunications industry; and liability and compliance costs regarding environmental regulations. These and other risks and uncertainties are discussed in more detail in the Company's and North Pittsburgh's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including our respective reports on Form 10-K and Form 10-Q.

Many of these risks are beyond management's ability to control or predict. All forward-looking statements attributable to the Company, North Pittsburgh or persons acting on behalf of each of them are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements and risk factors contained in this Report and the companies' filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Because of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Furthermore, forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made. Except as required under the federal securities laws or the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission, we do not undertake any obligation to update or review any forward-looking information, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

#### Prospectus/Proxy Statement

This material is not a substitute for the prospectus/proxy statement the Company and North Pittsburgh will file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Investors are urged to read the prospectus/proxy statement, which will contain important information, including detailed risk factors, when it becomes available. The prospectus/proxy statement and other documents which will be filed by the Company and North Pittsburgh with the Securities and Exchange Commission will be available free of charge at the Securities and Exchange Commission's website, [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), or by directing a request when such a filing is made to Consolidated Communications, 121 South 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Mattoon, IL 61938, Attention: Investor Relations; or to North Pittsburgh, 4008 Gibsonia Road, Gibsonia, Pennsylvania 15044, Attention: Investor Relations. The final prospectus/proxy statement will be mailed to shareholders of North Pittsburgh.

This communication shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities, nor shall there be any sale of securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of such jurisdiction.

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Proxy Solicitation

The Company and North Pittsburgh, and certain of their respective directors, executive officers and other members of management and employees are participants in the solicitation of proxies in connection with the proposed transactions. Information about the directors and executive officers of the Company is set forth in the proxy statement for the Company's 2007 annual meeting of shareholders. Information about the directors and executive officers of North Pittsburgh is set forth in the company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006, as amended. Investors may obtain additional information regarding the interests of such participants in the proposed transactions by reading the prospectus/proxy statement for such proposed transactions when it becomes available.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) *Exhibits.*

| Exhibit No. | Description                              |
|-------------|--|
| 99.1        | Press release dated July 2, 2007.        |
| 99.2        | Investor/Analyst Presentation Materials. |

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EXHIBIT INDEX

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|----------------|--|
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