

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO  
Form 424B2  
June 15, 2001

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(B) (2)  
Registration Statement No. 333-58044

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT  
(TO PROSPECTUS DATED MAY 9, 2001)

[LOGO]

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY  
21,875,000 SHARES OF COMMON STOCK  
-----

We are offering 21,875,000 shares of our common stock at a price of \$12.10 per share.

Concurrently with this offering, we are also offering \$400.0 million of our equity units, each of which will initially consist of a contract to purchase shares of our common stock and a senior note due 2006 issued by us. This offering is not conditioned on the completion of our concurrent equity unit offering.

Our common stock is listed on The New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "CZN." On June 13, 2001, the last reported sale price of our common stock on The New York Stock Exchange was \$12.10 per share.

THIS INVESTMENT INVOLVES RISKS. SEE "RISK FACTORS" BEGINNING ON PAGE 4 OF THE ATTACHED PROSPECTUS.  
-----

	PRICE TO PUBLIC -----	UNDERWRITING DISCOUNTS AND COMMISSIONS -----	PROCEED CITIZ -----
Per Share of Common Stock.....	\$12.1000	\$0.5747	\$11.5
Total.....	\$264,687,500.00	\$12,571,562.50	\$252,115,

We have granted the underwriters a 30-day option to purchase up to 3,281,250 additional shares of our common stock on the same terms and conditions set forth above solely to cover over-allotments, if any.  
-----

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR PASSED UPON THE ACCURACY OR ADEQUACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT OR THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.  
-----

The underwriters expect to deliver the shares of common stock to purchasers on June 19, 2001.  
-----

JPMORGAN  
JOINT BOOK-RUNNING MANAGERS  
MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER  
-----

# Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

## JOINT LEAD MANAGERS

BANC OF AMERICA SECURITIES LLC

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY

-----

LEHMAN BROTHERS

-----

THE BUCKINGHAM RESEARCH GROUP  
INCORPORATED

DAIN RAUSCHER WESSELS

LEGG MASON WOOD WALKER  
INCORPORATED

MIZUHO INTERNATIONAL PLC

ROBERTSON STEPHENS

TD SECURITIES

June 13, 2001

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

	PAGE
	----
Summary.....	S-3
The Offering.....	S-7
Use of Proceeds.....	S-8
Capitalization.....	S-9
Consolidated Selected Financial and Operating Data.....	S-11
Price Range of Common Stock and Dividend Policy.....	S-15
Certain Material U.S. Tax Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders.....	S-16
Incorporation of Documents by Reference.....	S-19
Underwriters.....	S-20
Legal Matters.....	S-21
Pro Forma Combined Financial Statements.....	P-1

### PROSPECTUS

	PAGE
	----
About This Prospectus.....	3
Risk Factors.....	4
Forward-Looking Statements.....	9
Use of Proceeds.....	10
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges....	10
Citizens Communications Company.....	11
Citizens Communications Capital Trust I.....	25
Accounting Treatment.....	25

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

Selling Stockholder.....	26
Description of Debt Securities.....	27
Description of Capital Stock.....	35
Description of Warrants.....	37
Description of Depositary Shares.....	39
Description of Trust Preferred Securities.....	42
Description of Guarantee.....	43
Plan of Distribution.....	46
Where You Can Find More Information...	48
Incorporation of Documents by Reference.....	48
Legal Matters.....	49
Experts.....	49

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We are offering to sell the shares of common stock, and seeking offers to buy the shares of common stock, only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus supplement and the date of the accompanying prospectus, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus supplement or any sales of the shares of common stock. In this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, unless otherwise indicated or unless the context otherwise requires, "we," "us" and "our" refer to Citizens Communications Company and its subsidiaries. In this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, unless otherwise indicated, "Citizens" refers to Citizens Communications Company and does not include its subsidiaries.

S-2

### SUMMARY

THIS SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS ONLY SELECTED INFORMATION FROM THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS AND MAY NOT CONTAIN ALL OF THE INFORMATION THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU. TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THIS OFFERING, YOU SHOULD READ THIS ENTIRE PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT, THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS AND THE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS TO WHICH WE REFER YOU. SEE "CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY," "WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION" IN THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS AND "INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE" IN THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND IN THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS.

#### CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY

We are a telecommunications-focused company providing wireline communications services primarily to rural areas and small and medium-sized towns and cities as an incumbent local exchange carrier, or ILEC. In addition, we provide competitive local exchange carrier, or CLEC, service to business customers and to other communications carriers in certain metropolitan areas in the western United States through Electric Lightwave, Inc., or ELI, our 85%-owned subsidiary. We also provide public utility services including natural gas transmission and distribution, electric transmission and distribution and water distribution and wastewater treatment services to primarily rural and suburban customers throughout the United States.

With approximately 1.4 million telephone access lines in 17 states we were the eighth largest local access wireline telephone provider in the United States as of December 31, 2000. Upon consummation of telephone access line acquisitions

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

contracted for during 1999 and 2000, we expect to be the sixth largest ILEC in the United States with approximately 3.1 million telephone access lines in 27 states. In fiscal years 1999 and 2000, revenues from our ILEC services segment were \$903.2 million and \$963.7 million, respectively, and adjusted EBITDA (operating income plus depreciation and amortization) was \$327.1 million and \$434.1 million, respectively. Revenues in fiscal years 1999 and 2000, from our CLEC services segment were \$187.0 million and \$244.0 million, respectively, and adjusted EBITDA was \$(57.6) million and \$1.8 million, respectively.

In 1999, we announced plans to divest our public utilities services segments. Consistent with this effort, we have contracted to sell our water and wastewater utility services segments and portions of our gas and electric properties and are presently engaged in the sale of or are seeking buyers for our remaining gas and electric utility services segments. Pending these divestitures, we continue to provide gas and electric utility services and water and wastewater services.

### STRATEGY

We are transforming ourselves into a company that focuses exclusively on providing telecommunications services. We primarily operate in rural areas and small and medium-sized towns where, we believe we have a competitive advantage because of our relatively larger size, greater resources, local focus and lower levels of competition. We believe that our operations in these areas will provide us with steady revenue growth and margin enhancement opportunities. To reach our objective we intend to:

- Target telecommunications needs of rural areas and small and medium-sized towns and cities;
- Continue to achieve economies of scale through clustering and increase operational efficiencies;
- Increase penetration rates of the services offered to our markets;
- Retain existing customers and attract new customers through the introduction of new technology and improved marketing and customer services;
- Strengthen and build strategic partnerships as a member of the local communities;
- Increase utilization of our CLEC's high-capacity, installed, fiber-optic infrastructure; and
- Divest our public utilities services segment's business and assets.

S-3

### ACQUISITIONS

We have entered into agreements with Verizon Communications Inc., Qwest Communications International Inc. and Global Crossing, Ltd. to acquire approximately 2.0 million telephone access lines. Through March 31, 2001, we had closed on the acquisition of 334,500 of these telephone access lines and we expect to close on the acquisition of the remaining 1,700,200 of these telephone access lines in 2001 and 2002.

Between May and December 1999, we announced agreements to purchase from Verizon approximately 381,200 telephone access lines (as of December 31, 2000) in Arizona, California, Illinois/ Wisconsin, Minnesota and Nebraska for approximately \$1,171.0 million in cash. As of March 31, 2001, we had closed on

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

the purchase of approximately 317,500 telephone access lines. We expect that the remainder of the Verizon acquisitions, which are subject to various state and federal regulatory approvals, will close on a state-by-state basis in 2001.

In June 1999, we announced agreements to purchase from Qwest approximately 556,800 telephone access lines (as of December 31, 2000) in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho/Washington, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota and Wyoming for approximately \$1,650.0 million in cash and the assumption of certain liabilities. As of March 31, 2001, we had closed on the purchase of approximately 17,000 telephone access lines for approximately \$38.0 million in cash. The remainder of the Qwest acquisitions, covering 539,800 access lines, are subject to the satisfaction of certain closing conditions, including, without limitation, financial representations and warranties and the receipt of governmental consents. We have already received all required state regulatory approvals other than from Minnesota. Subject to satisfaction of the required closing conditions, we anticipate closing the acquisitions on a state-by-state basis. We cannot assure you that all required closing conditions will be satisfied. We are currently in discussions with Qwest relating to the satisfaction of closing conditions. We do not believe that the failure to close any or all of the remaining Qwest acquisitions will have a material adverse effect on us, including our ability to implement our telecommunications strategies.

In July 2000, we announced an agreement to purchase from Global Crossing 100% of the stock of the Frontier Corp. and its related subsidiaries, which own approximately 1.1 million telephone access lines (as of December 31, 2000) in Alabama/Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New York, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, for approximately \$3,650.0 million in cash, which price was later reduced to \$3,500.0 million. We have received approval for the proposed purchase from the Federal Communications Commission and all other state Public Service Commissions with the exception of Minnesota. Subject to the timely receipt of the Minnesota regulatory approval, we expect that this transaction will be completed and paid for in full by the end of June 2001.

### DIVESTITURES

Through our public utilities services segments, we provide gas and electric, water and wastewater utility services. We have entered into agreements to sell a substantial portion of our public utilities services segments for \$1,380.0 million in cash and \$90.0 million in debt. In certain cases, we may remain contingently liable for certain liabilities assumed by the relevant purchasers.

Our water and wastewater segment is under contract to be sold to American Water Works, Inc., one of the largest water utilities in the country, for \$745.0 million in cash and the assumption of \$90.0 million in debt by the purchaser. This transaction is expected to close in the second half of 2001 following the receipt of regulatory approval. This contract may be terminated if the required approvals are not received by September 30, 2001.

Our natural gas operations in Louisiana are under contract to be sold to Atmos Energy Corporation for \$365.0 million in cash plus the assumption of certain liabilities. We received approval for this sale from the Louisiana Public Service Commission in April 2001 and this transaction is expected to close by the end of June 2001.

S-4

Our electric utility division in Hawaii is under contract to be sold to Kauai Island Electric Co-op for \$270.0 million in cash plus the assumption of certain liabilities by the purchaser. In August 2000, the Hawaii Public Utility

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

Commission denied the application requesting approval of the purchase by Kauai Island Electric Co-op. We are considering a variety of options, including filing a request for reconsideration of the decision or filing a new application. Our agreement for the sale of this division may be terminated if regulatory approval is not received before February 2002.

We intend to sell our remaining public utility assets, which include gas operations in Arizona, Colorado, and Hawaii and electric utility operations in Arizona and Vermont. We expect to use the proceeds of pending and future public utilities' sales to preserve the strength of our balance sheet and provide additional financing for acquisitions.

### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

#### CONCURRENT ISSUANCE OF EQUITY UNITS

We are offering concurrently an aggregate of \$400.0 million of equity units (or \$460.0 million if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full) in a separate offering. Each equity unit will initially consist of a purchase contract to purchase a number of shares of our common stock and \$25 in aggregate principal amount of a 6 3/4% Citizens senior note due 2006. This offering is not contingent on the completion of the offering of the equity units.

#### SALE OF NOTES

We issued on May 23, 2001 an aggregate of \$1,750 million of notes consisting of \$700 million principal amount of 8.50% notes due 2006 and \$1,050 million principal amount of 9.25% notes due 2011. The net proceeds of the offering were approximately \$1,718.2 million. Of these net proceeds, approximately \$650 million was used to temporarily repay existing credit facilities and the remainder is being held for general corporate purposes and to finance acquisitions. The amount of the commitment under our existing bank credit facility was reduced by the amount of the net proceeds of that offering.

We have received:

- from Moody's Investor Service, Inc. ("Moody's") a rating of Baa2 for our long-term debt on review for a possible downgrade;
- from Standard and Poor's Rating Services, a division of McGraw-Hill, Inc. ("S&P"), a rating of BBB for our corporate credit and senior unsecured debt with a negative outlook; and
- from Fitch IBCA, Duff & Phelps ("Fitch") a rating of BBB for our senior unsecured debt with a stable outlook.

Each of Moody's, S&P and Fitch has indicated that, in order to maintain our current ratings, we should undertake action to strengthen our balance sheet. We are contemplating the issuance of additional equity, refinancing our credit facility indebtedness, and perhaps raising capital by selling some significant telecommunications assets to one or more joint ventures, which we expect to operate. Market conditions permitting, we may undertake one or more of these or other actions to preserve the strength of our balance sheet and maintain our current ratings.

#### FIRST QUARTER RESULTS

In the quarter ended March 31, 2001, consolidated first quarter revenue from our continuing operations, which includes revenue from our telecommunications, electric and gas operations, was \$624.3 million, an increase of 39% from the first quarter of 2000. Our ILEC and CLEC operations (telecommunications and ELI

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

operations) accounted for \$349.1 million and \$282.4 million of first quarter 2001 and 2000 revenue, respectively. Our gas operations accounted for \$220.5 million and \$113.1 million of the first quarter 2001 and 2000 revenue, respectively. Our electric operations accounted for \$54.7 million and \$53.2 million of the first quarter 2001 and 2000 revenue, respectively.

S-5

Our first quarter 2001 adjusted EBITDA (operating income plus depreciation and amortization) from continuing operations totaled \$193.6 million, a 44% increase over first quarter 2000 adjusted EBITDA of \$134.7 million. The current and year-ago quarters include \$153.1 million and \$95.5 million in adjusted EBITDA, respectively, from our telecommunications and ELI operations. The first quarter 2001 and first quarter 2000 also include \$28.8 million and \$24.5 million in adjusted EBITDA, respectively, from our gas operations and \$11.7 million and \$14.7 million, respectively, in adjusted EBITDA from our electric operations.

See "Where You Can Find More Information" in the accompanying prospectus and "Incorporation of Documents by Reference" in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

S-6

### THE OFFERING

Securities Offered.....	21,875,000 shares of common stock (25,156,250 shares if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full).
Use of Proceeds.....	The net proceeds we receive for the sale of the common stock, together with the net proceeds from our concurrent offering of equity units, after payment of estimated offering expenses, will be approximately \$638.1 million (without regard to the exercise of any over-allotment option). We plan to use the net proceeds from the sale of the common stock and, if successful, the net proceeds from our concurrent offering of equity units to finance our acquisitions and for general corporate purposes. Until we use the proceeds of the offerings in this manner, we may temporarily use them to make short-term investments. The amount of the commitment under our existing bank credit facility will be reduced by the amount of the net proceeds of this offering and our concurrent equity unit offering.

S-7

### USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds we receive for the sale of the common stock, together with the net proceeds from our concurrent offering of equity units, after payment of estimated offering expenses, will be approximately \$638.1 million (without regard to the exercise of any over-allotment option). We plan to use the net proceeds from the sale of the common stock and, if successful, the net proceeds

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

from our concurrent offering of equity units to finance our acquisitions and for general corporate purposes. Until we use the proceeds of the offerings in this manner, we may temporarily use them to make short-term investments. The amount of commitment under our existing bank credit facility will be reduced by the amount of the net proceeds of this offering and our concurrent equity unit offering.

S-8

### CAPITALIZATION

The following table represents our historical cash, short-term investments and capitalization as of March 31, 2001 and such items: (a) adjusted for our May 18, 2001 offering of \$1.75 billion aggregate principal amount of senior notes and the use of proceeds thereof; (b) further adjusted for this offering and our concurrent offering of equity units (assuming the underwriters do not exercise their over-allotment option in either offering) and (c) on a pro forma basis to reflect the offerings and the acquisitions, divestitures and remaining assumed financings described in the footnotes below and elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. This table should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Selected Financial and Operating Data and notes and the consolidated financial statements and footnotes included elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	ACTUAL	ADJUSTED FOR THE SENIOR NOTES OFFERING (1)	FURTHER ADJUSTED FOR THIS OFFERING AND THE CONCURRENT EQUITY UNIT OFFERING (2)
	-----	-----	-----
	(UNAUDITED IN MILLIONS)		
Cash.....	\$ 28.4	\$1,096.6	\$1,734.7
Short-term investments.....	5.6	5.6	5.6
	-----	-----	-----
Total cash and short-term investments.....	34.0	1,102.2	1,740.3
	=====	=====	=====
Long-term debt, net of current portion			
Senior notes.....	--	1,750.0	1,750.0
Senior notes (component of Equity Units).....	--	--	400.0
Debentures.....	850.0	850.0	850.0
Industrial development revenue bonds...	385.5	385.5	385.5
Senior unsecured notes.....	361.0	361.0	361.0
Citizens' bank credit facility.....	650.0	--	--
ELI bank credit facility.....	400.0	400.0	400.0
Rural Utilities Service Loan Contracts.....	85.6	85.6	85.6
Other long-term debt and capital leases.....	103.0	103.0	103.0
Commercial paper notes payable.....	146.4	146.4	146.4
	-----	-----	-----
Total long-term debt.....	2,981.5	4,081.5	4,481.5
	-----	-----	-----
Equity forward contracts.....	150.0	150.0	150.0
	-----	-----	-----
Company Obligated Mandatorily Redeemable			



Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

Convertible Preferred Securities.....	201.3	201.3	201.3
	-----	-----	-----
Shareholders' equity			
Common stock.....	66.6	66.6	72.1
Additional paid-in capital.....	1,482.0	1,482.0	1,731.9
Retained earnings.....	252.9	252.9	252.9
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss).....	(19.2)	(19.2)	(19.2)
Treasury stock.....	(52.0)	(52.0)	(52.0)
	-----	-----	-----
Total shareholders' equity.....	1,730.3	1,730.3	1,985.7
	=====	=====	=====
Total capitalization.....	\$5,063.1	\$6,163.1	\$6,818.5
	=====	=====	=====

-----

(1) Reflects the proceeds of the May 18, 2001 senior notes offering totalling \$1.75 billion. These notes were offered in two maturities: \$700.0 million due May 2006 and \$1.05 billion due May 2011. Adjusted for the senior notes offering, cash is assumed to increase by \$1,068.2 million representing the net proceeds of \$1,718.2 million (after deducting estimated offering expenses \$31.8 million) net of the repayment of amounts outstanding under Citizens' bank credit facility of \$650.0 million.

S-9

(2) Reflects the gross proceeds of this offering and the concurrent offering of equity units totaling \$664.7 million. Cash is assumed to increase by \$638.1 million (after deducting estimated offering expenses of \$26.6 million). Senior notes increased by \$400.0 million for the amount of the note component of the concurrent offering of equity units (which includes debt discount of \$4.3 million representing the value of the warrant component). Common stock increased by \$5.5 million representing the number of shares of common stock issued in this offering (21.9 million shares) times the par value per share (\$.25). Additional paid-in capital increased by \$4.3 million for the value of the warrant component of the concurrent offering of equity units plus \$245.6 million representing the gross proceeds of this offering of \$264.7 million less the par value of the common stock of \$5.5 million and estimated expenses of \$13.6 million.

(3) Reflects estimated cash, short-term investments and capitalization of Citizens following the total proposed acquisition financings and the proposed acquisitions totaling \$5,334.8 million for the purchase of all remaining telephone access lines including the Verizon Arizona and California access lines; the Qwest Arizona, Colorado, Idaho/Washington, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska and Wyoming access lines; and the Frontier Incumbent Local Exchange businesses.

(4) The purchase price for the proposed acquisitions is assumed to have been financed at March 31, 2001 with the proceeds from the sales of our public utilities services properties and the issuance of debt and equity. The following represents the total assumed financings of the proposed acquisitions:

(\$ IN MILLIONS)

-----

Estimated after-tax proceeds from sales of public utilities

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

services properties.....	\$1,855.4
Proceeds from the May 18, 2001 senior notes offering after estimated offering expenses and repayment of Citizens' bank credit facility.....	1,068.2
Estimated proceeds from this offering and the concurrent offering of equity units after estimated offering expenses.....	638.1
Additional long-term borrowings.....	1,300.0
Issuance of additional equity.....	475.0
Purchase of remaining acquisitions.....	(5,334.8)
	-----
Increase to cash.....	\$ 1.9
	=====

To the extent the proceeds from the sale of our public utilities services properties are \$100.0 million (pre-tax) greater than the amount assumed above, the difference would result in our having to issue \$61.4 million less in debt or equity. We may obtain a portion of our future long-term borrowings and issuances of additional equity through one or more joint venture entities.

- (5) The increase in other long-term debt represents \$116.1 million of Frontier debt to be assumed in the Frontier acquisition based on Frontier's long-term debt as of December 31, 2000 (the latest date such information is available).
- (6) The proposed acquisitions are assumed to have been partially financed with anticipated net cash proceeds from the sales of our public utilities services properties, net of estimated income taxes on the assumed gain related thereto. For pro forma presentation purposes, cash proceeds from these dispositions are assumed to be the contract prices for those properties for which we have reached an agreement with a buyer and signed a definitive contract to sell, and the net book values for those properties not yet under contract. Such net cash proceeds are assumed to aggregate \$1,855.4 million. This results in an addition to retained earnings of \$404.6 million reflecting the estimated net book gain on the sale of these properties based on their carrying values at March 31, 2001. All long-term financing of our public utilities properties, \$134.4 million as of March 31, 2001, was assumed to be transferred to the purchasers of such properties and is not reflected as long-term debt in the capitalization table above. In certain cases, we may remain contingently liable for certain liabilities assumed by the relevant purchasers.

S-10

### CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY CONSOLIDATED SELECTED FINANCIAL AND OPERATING DATA

The following tables contain consolidated selected financial data of Citizens as of the dates and for the periods indicated. Historical financial data for the years ended December 31, 1998, 1999 and 2000 have been derived from our audited financial statements. The unaudited pro forma financial information has been prepared to illustrate the effects of the acquisitions and divestitures described elsewhere as if the acquisitions had been completed as of December 31, 2000 for the pro forma balance sheet or at the beginning of the periods presented for the pro forma statements of operations. The unaudited pro forma financial information does not reflect any joint venture we may enter into as a financing vehicle. If we enter into a joint venture, we expect our financial condition and results will materially differ from the results indicated by the pro forma financial information.

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

The following data should be read together with the section under the headings "Capitalization" and "Pro Forma Combined Financial Statements." For copies of the financial data we incorporate by reference, see "Where You Can Find More Information."

S-11

### CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,			QUARTER ENDED MARCH 31,	
	1998	1999	2000	2000	2001
	(\$ IN MILLIONS, EXCEPT PER-SHARE AND OTHER FINANCIAL AND OPERATING DATA)				
<b>STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS DATA:</b>					
Continuing Operations: (1)					
Revenue.....	\$1,448.6	\$1,598.2	\$ 1,802.3	\$ 448.7	\$ 624.3
Operating expenses:					
Cost of services and other operating expenses.....	1,052.1	1,213.8	1,253.0	310.0	425.2
Depreciation and amortization.....	245.5	310.2	387.6	96.0	105.7
Acquisition assimilation expenses.....	--	3.9	39.9	4.0	5.5
Total operating expenses....	1,297.6	1,527.9	1,680.5	410.0	536.4
Operating income (loss).....	151.0	70.3	121.8	38.7	87.9
Investment and other income, net(2).....	6.1	243.9	3.4	5.6	2.8
Minority interest.....	14.0	23.2	12.2	6.3	--
Interest expense.....	101.8	119.7	187.4	37.6	61.5
Income tax expense (benefit).....	16.7	74.9	(16.1)	4.8	9.0
Dividends on convertible preferred securities, net of income tax benefit.....	6.2	6.2	6.2	1.6	1.6
Income (loss) from continuing operations.....	46.4	136.6	(40.1)	6.6	18.6
Income from discontinued operations, net of tax....	13.0	7.9	11.7	0.7	1.1
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle, net of income tax and related minority interest.....	(2.3)	--	--	--	--
Net income (loss).....	\$ 57.1	\$ 144.5	\$ (28.4)	\$ 7.3	\$ 19.7
<b>SELECTED CASH FLOW SUMMARY DATA:</b>					
Net cash provided by continuing operating activities.....	\$ 249.9	\$ 370.3	\$ 308.1	\$ 113.3	\$ 152.8
Net cash used for investing					

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

activities.....	(531.1)	(552.9)	(1,273.6)	(157.6)	(79.5)
Net cash provided by (used for) financing activities.....	307.7	192.0	1,017.4	43.3	(71.4)

S-12

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,			QUARTER ENDED MARCH 31,	
	1998	1999	2000	2000	2001
	(\$ IN MILLIONS, EXCEPT PER-SHARE AND OTHER FINANCIAL AND OPERATING DATA)				
ADJUSTED EBITDA AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE DATA(3):					
Adjusted EBITDA from continuing operations.....	\$ 396.4	\$ 380.5	\$ 509.4	\$ 134.7	\$ 193.6
Adjusted EBITDA from discontinued operations.....	39.6	36.2	45.6	8.0	8.7
Total Company Adjusted EBITDA.....	436.0	416.7	555.0	142.7	202.3
Adjusted EBITDA from continuing operations excluding acquisition assimilation expenses.....	396.4	384.5	549.3	138.7	199.1
Capital expenditures from continuing operations.....	426.6	419.2	463.9	133.2	96.9
Capital expenditures from assets held for sale.....	64.6	110.5	80.9	17.0	17.1
Capital expenditures from discontinued operations.....	30.8	25.4	73.5	11.8	10.0
Total Company capital expenditures.....	522.0	555.1	618.3	162.0	124.0
OTHER FINANCIAL DATA:					
Consolidated ratio of earnings(4) to fixed charges(5).....	1.28	2.22	.62	1.40	1.05
Consolidated ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred dividends.....	1.26	2.14	.64	1.39	1.05
BALANCE SHEET DATA (AS OF DECEMBER 31, OR MARCH 31):					
Cash and investments.....	\$ 496.1	\$ 628.5	\$ 284.4	\$ 590.6	\$ 215.9
Net plant (continuing operations).....	2,705.1	2,888.7	3,509.8	2,947.0	3,498.7
Assets held for sale.....	1,033.2	1,060.7	1,212.3	1,064.6	1,222.8
Assets of discontinued operations.....	598.4	595.7	673.5	587.7	674.0
Total assets.....	5,292.9	5,771.7	6,955.0	5,758.5	6,811.7
Long-term debt (continuing operations).....	1,775.3	2,107.5	3,062.3	2,193.5	2,981.5

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

Shareholders' equity.....	1,792.8	1,919.9	1,720.0	1,869.5	1,730.3
OTHER OPERATING DATA:					
Access lines (as of December 31, or March 31).....	951,500	996,800	1,371,200	1,007,250	1,387,293
Switched access minutes of use (in millions).....	4,526	5,224	5,755	1,323	1,811

-----

(1) Consists of our ILEC services segment, Electric Lightwave, Inc., our CLEC services segment, and our natural gas and electric businesses. The natural gas and electric businesses are presented in continuing operations in selected income statement data and as assets held for sale in the balance sheet data. We are reporting our water and wastewater businesses as discontinued operations. All prior years have been restated to conform to current presentation. Continuing operations reflect the elimination of intercompany transactions.

S-13

- (2) 1999 includes a gain of \$69.5 million (\$42.9 million net of tax) on the sale of Centennial Cellular stock, a gain of \$67.6 million (\$41.7 million net of tax) on the disposition of Century Communications Corp. ("Century") stock and a gain of \$83.9 million (\$51.8 million net of tax) on the disposition of an interest in a cable joint venture.
- (3) Adjusted EBITDA is defined as operating income plus depreciation and amortization.
- (4) Earnings consist of income (loss) before income taxes plus fixed charges.
- (5) Fixed charges consist of interest charges and an amount representing the interest factor included in rentals (generally assumed to be one-third) and preference security dividend requirements. Excluding the 1999 pre-tax non-operating gains, described in Note 2, the ratio of earnings to fixed charges for 1999 is 0.67 and the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred dividends for 1999 is 0.69.

SELECTED SECTOR FINANCIAL AND OPERATING DATA

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,			QUARTER MARCH
	1998	1999	2000	2000
-----				
(\$ IN MILLIONS, EXCEPT OPERATING DATA)				
ILEC SERVICES SEGMENT				
Total revenue.....	\$835.0	\$903.2	\$ 963.7	\$ 226.3
Adjusted EBITDA(1).....	336.2	327.1	434.1	102.0
Operating income.....	154.5	100.9	157.9	32.0
Capital expenditures.....	201.5	227.2	350.2	107.9
Access lines (as of December 31, or March 31, in thousands).....	951.5	996.8	1,371.2	1,007.3
Switched access minutes of use (in millions).....	4,526	5,224	5,755	1,323.0

ELECTRIC LIGHTWAVE, INC.(2)

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

Total revenue.....	\$100.9	\$187.0	\$ 244.0	\$ 56.8
Adjusted EBITDA(1).....	(56.8)	(57.6)	1.8	(6.7)
Operating loss.....	(73.8)	(94.1)	(59.9)	(19.4)
Capital expenditures(3).....	200.0	185.4	112.3	25.4
Route miles (as of December 31, or March 31, in thousands).....	3.1	4.1	5.9	5.9
Fiber miles (as of December 31, or March 31, in thousands).....	181.4	214.9	297.3	293.7
GAS SEGMENT				
Total revenue.....	\$325.4	\$307.0	\$ 374.8	\$ 113.1
Adjusted EBITDA(1).....	66.3	54.2	27.5	24.5
Operating income.....	42.2	32.0	8.3	18.1
Capital expenditures.....	45.8	67.0	51.5	7.8
ELECTRIC SEGMENT				
Total revenue.....	\$190.3	\$203.8	\$ 223.1	\$ 53.2
Adjusted EBITDA(1).....	49.8	55.8	43.9	14.7
Operating income.....	27.1	30.3	15.2	7.9
Capital expenditures.....	18.9	43.5	29.5	9.2

-----

- (1) Adjusted EBITDA is defined as operating income plus depreciation and amortization.
- (2) Electric Lightwave, Inc. (ELI) is our 85%-owned publicly traded subsidiary. This information is presented as-reported for ELI and does not reflect the elimination of intercompany transactions.
- (3) Excludes capitalized leases.

S-14

PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND DIVIDEND POLICY

Our common stock trades on The New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "CZN." The reported last sale price of our common stock on June 13, 2001 on The New York Stock Exchange was \$12.10 per common share. The following table sets forth the quarterly high and low sales prices for our common stock as reported by The New York Stock Exchange for the periods indicated.

	STOCK PRICES	
	HIGH	LOW
	-----	-----
FISCAL YEAR 1999:		
First Quarter.....	\$8.50	\$7.25
Second Quarter.....	11.50	7.69
Third Quarter.....	12.44	10.88
Fourth Quarter.....	14.31	10.94
FISCAL YEAR 2000:		
First Quarter.....	17.06	13.75
Second Quarter.....	18.00	14.31
Third Quarter.....	19.00	13.00
Fourth Quarter.....	15.31	12.50
FISCAL YEAR 2001:		
First Quarter.....	15.88	12.05

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

Second Quarter (through June 13, 2001)..... 15.00 11.28

The amount and timing of dividends payable on our common stock are within the sole discretion of our Board of Directors. Our Board of Directors discontinued the payment of dividends after the payment of the December 1998 stock dividend.

S-15

### CERTAIN MATERIAL U.S. TAX CONSEQUENCES TO NON-U.S. HOLDERS

The following summary describes certain material United States federal income and estate tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of common stock by a Non-U.S. Holder (as defined below) as of the date hereof. This discussion does not address all aspects of United States federal income and estate taxes and does not deal with foreign, state and local consequences that may be relevant to such Non-U.S. Holders in light of their personal circumstances. Special rules may apply to certain Non-U.S. Holders, such as "controlled foreign corporations", "passive foreign investment companies", "foreign personal holding companies", corporations that accumulate earnings to avoid U.S. federal income tax, and certain former citizens or long-term residents of the United States, that are subject to special treatment under the Code. Such entities should consult their own tax advisors to determine the U.S. federal, state, local and other tax consequences that may be relevant to them. Furthermore, the discussion below is based upon the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and regulations, rulings and judicial decisions thereunder as of the date hereof, and such authorities may be repealed, revoked or modified so as to result in United States federal income tax consequences different from those discussed below.

If a partnership holds the common stock, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Persons who are partners in partnerships holding the common stock should consult their tax advisors.

The authorities on which this summary is based are subject to various interpretations, and any views expressed within this summary are not binding on the Internal Revenue Service (which we refer to as the "IRS") or the courts. Either the IRS or the courts could disagree with the explanations or conclusions contained in this summary. No assurance can be given that the IRS or the courts will agree with the tax consequences described herein. You should consult your own tax advisor regarding the tax consequences to you of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the common stock, including the tax consequences under state, local, foreign and other tax laws.

As used herein, a "U.S. Holder" of common stock means a holder that is (i) a citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a corporation or other entity, treated, for purposes of U.S. taxation, as a corporation, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any political subdivision thereof, (iii) an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source or (iv) a trust (X) which is subject to primary supervision by a court situated within the United States and as to which one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, as described in section 7701(a)(30) of the Code or (Y) that has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person. A "Non-U.S. Holder" is a holder that is not a U.S. Holder.

### DIVIDENDS

Dividends paid to a Non-U.S. Holder of common stock generally will be

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

subject to withholding of United States federal income tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty. However, dividends that are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business by the Non-U.S. Holder within the United States and, where a tax treaty applies, are attributable to a United States permanent establishment of the Non-U.S. Holder, are not subject to the withholding tax, but instead are subject to United States federal income tax on a net income basis at applicable graduated individual or corporate rates. Certain certification and disclosure requirements must be complied with in order for effectively connected income to be exempt from withholding. Any such effectively connected dividends received by a foreign corporation may, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional "branch profits tax" at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty.

A Non-U.S. Holder of common stock who wishes to claim the benefit of an applicable treaty rate (and avoid back-up withholding as discussed below) for dividends, will be required to (a) complete IRS

S-16

Form W-8BEN (or appropriate substitute form) and certify under penalty of perjury, that such holder is not a U.S. person or (b) hold common stock through certain foreign intermediaries or certain foreign partnerships, and satisfy the certification requirements of applicable Treasury regulations. Special certification requirements apply to certain Non-U.S. Holders that are "pass-through" entities rather than individuals.

A Non-U.S. Holder of common stock eligible for a reduced rate of United States withholding tax pursuant to an income tax treaty may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld by filing an appropriate claim for refund with the IRS.

### GAIN ON DISPOSITION OF COMMON STOCK

A Non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax with respect to gain recognized on a sale or other disposition of common stock unless (i) the gain is effectively connected with a trade or business of the Non-U.S. Holder in the United States, and, where a tax treaty applies, is attributable to a United States permanent establishment of the Non-U.S. Holder, (ii) in the case of a Non-U.S. Holder who is an individual and holds the common stock as a capital asset, such holder is present in the United States for 183 or more days in the taxable year of the sale or other disposition and certain other conditions are met, or (iii) Citizens is or has been a "U.S. real property holding corporation" for United States federal income tax purposes.

An individual Non-U.S. Holder described in clause (i) above will be subject to tax on the net gain derived from the sale under regular graduated United States federal income tax rates. An individual Non-U.S. Holder described in clause (ii) above will be subject to a flat 30% tax on the gain derived from the sale, which may be offset by United States source capital losses (even though the individual is not considered a resident of the United States). If a Non-U.S. Holder that is a foreign corporation falls under clause (i) above, it will be subject to tax on its gain under regular graduated United States federal income tax rates and, in addition, may be subject to the branch profits tax equal to 30% of its effectively connected earnings and profits or at such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty.

Citizens has not determined whether it is a "U.S. real property holding corporation" for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If Citizens is or becomes a "U.S. real property holding corporation," so long as the common stock continues to be regularly traded on an established securities market, only a Non-U.S.



## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

Holder who holds or held directly, indirectly, or by application of prescribed stock attribution rules (at any time during the shorter of the five year period preceding the date of disposition or the holder's holding period) more than five percent of the common stock will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the disposition of the common stock.

### FEDERAL ESTATE TAX

Common stock held by an individual Non-U.S. Holder at the time of death will be included in such holder's gross estate for United States federal estate tax purposes, unless an applicable estate tax treaty provides otherwise.

### INFORMATION REPORTING AND BACKUP WITHHOLDING

Citizens must report annually to the IRS and to each Non-U.S. Holder the amount of dividends paid to such holder and the tax withheld with respect to such dividends, regardless of whether withholding was required. Copies of the information returns reporting such dividends and withholding may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which the Non-U.S. Holder resides under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty.

The United States imposes a backup withholding tax on dividends and certain other types of payments to United States persons at a rate of 31% of the gross amount. A Non-U.S. Holder will not

S-17

be subject to backup withholding tax on dividends which such holder receives on its shares of common stock if proper certification (usually on an IRS Form W-8BEN) of foreign status is provided or the holder is a corporation or one of several types of entities and organizations that qualify for exemption (an "exempt recipient").

Information reporting and backup withholding generally are not required with respect to the amount of any proceeds from the sale of shares of common stock by a Non-U.S. Holder outside the United States through a foreign office of a foreign broker that does not have certain specified connections to the United States. However, if a Non-U.S. Holder sells shares of common stock through a United States broker or the United States office of a foreign broker, the broker will be required to report the amount of proceeds paid to such holder to the IRS and also backup withhold at a rate of 31% of that amount unless appropriate certification (usually on an IRS Form W-8BEN) is provided to the broker of the holder's status as a non-United States person or the holder is an exempt recipient. Information reporting (and backup withholding if the appropriate certification is not provided) also apply if a Non-U.S. Holder sells its shares of common stock through a foreign broker deriving more than a specified percentage of its income from United States sources or having certain other connections to the United States.

Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a refund or a credit against such holder's U.S. federal income tax liability provided the required information is furnished to the IRS.

S-18

### INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

Some of the information that you may want to consider in deciding whether to purchase shares of common stock is not included in this prospectus supplement but rather is incorporated by reference to specific reports that we have filed with the SEC. This allows us to disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents rather than repeating them in full in this

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. The information incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement contains important business and financial information. In addition, information that we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement automatically updates and supersedes the information contained in this prospectus supplement and incorporated filings. We have previously filed the following documents with the SEC (File No. 001-11001) and are incorporating them by reference into this prospectus supplement:

- Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three-month period ended March 31, 2001 of Citizens Communications Company filed with the SEC on May 10, 2001;
- Current Report on Form 8-K of Citizens Communications Company filed with the SEC on May 10, 2001 in respect of our earnings announcement for the quarter ended May 31, 2001;
- Current Report on Form 8-K of Citizens Communications Company filed with the SEC on May 16, 2001 in respect of our offering of up to \$1,000 million in senior unsecured debt;
- Current Report on Form 8-K of Citizens Communications Company filed with the SEC on May 24, 2001 in respect of our May 18, 2001 issuance of \$1,750 million in aggregate principal amount of notes;
- Current Report on Form 8-K of Citizens Communications Company filed with the SEC on June 4, 2001 in respect of the announcement of this offering and the concurrent offering of our equity units; and
- Current Report on Form 8-K of Citizens Communications Company filed with the SEC on June 12, 2001.

We also incorporate by reference all documents subsequently filed by us under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 after the date of this prospectus supplement until our offering is completed.

In addition, you should refer to the section entitled "Incorporation of Documents by Reference" in the accompanying prospectus for a list of documents previously incorporated by reference into the prospectus.

We will provide you, upon written or oral request, with a copy of any of these documents, at no cost. You should direct your request, either in writing or by telephone, to

Citizens Communications Company  
3 High Ridge Park, Stamford, Connecticut 06905  
Attn.: Office of the Secretary  
Telephone 203-614-5600

S-19

### UNDERWRITERS

Under the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the underwriting agreement dated June 13, 2001, the underwriters named below have severally agreed to purchase and we have agreed to sell them, severally, the respective shares of common stock set forth opposite the name of each underwriter. J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. and Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated are acting as representatives of the underwriters in the offering of the common stock.

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

NAME ----	NUMBER OF SHARES -----
J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. ....	4,630,938
Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated.....	4,630,938
Banc of America Securities LLC.....	4,630,937
Salomon Smith Barney Inc. ....	4,630,937
Lehman Brothers Inc.....	1,155,000
The Buckingham Research Group Incorporated.....	231,875
Dain Rauscher Incorporated.....	288,750
Legg Mason Wood Walker, Incorporated.....	231,875
Mizuho International plc.....	288,750
Robertson Stephens, Inc.....	577,500
TD Securities (USA) Inc.....	577,500
	-----
Total.....	21,875,000 =====

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligation of the underwriters to pay for and accept delivery of the shares of common stock are subject to, among other things, the approval of certain legal matters by their counsel and certain other conditions. The underwriters are obligated to take and pay for all the shares of common stock if any are taken.

The underwriters propose initially to offer part of the common stock to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page hereof and in part to certain dealers at a price that represents a concession not in excess of \$0.36. After the initial offering of the common stock, the offering price and other selling terms may from time to time be varied by the underwriters.

Citizens has agreed that, without the prior written consent of J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. and Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, on behalf of the underwriters, it will not, during the period ending 90 days after the date of this prospectus supplement:

- offer, pledge, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right or warrant to purchase, lend or otherwise transfer or dispose of directly or indirectly, any shares of our common stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for shares of Citizens common stock; or
- enter into any swap or other arrangement that transfers to another, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of shares of Citizens common stock;

whether any transaction described above is to be settled by delivery of Citizens common stock or such other securities, in cash or otherwise. The restrictions described in this paragraph do not apply to, among other things:

- the sale of shares of common stock to the underwriters;
- the issuance of equity units in Citizens' anticipated concurrent equity units offering;
- the issuance by Citizens of shares of common stock upon the exercise of an option outstanding on the date of this prospectus supplement or with respect to awards under Citizens executive stock incentive plan outstanding on the date of this prospectus supplement;

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

- the grant of options or awards pursuant to Citizens employee benefit plans, provided that such options or awards do not vest prior to the termination of the lock-up period; or

S-20

- the issuance of shares of our common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any shares of our common stock by us in a private sale in which each recipient of such securities agrees to be bound by the same restrictions as those described in the following paragraph.

Our executive officers and directors have agreed that, for a period of 90 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, they will not offer, sell, contract to sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of, directly or indirectly, any shares of our common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any shares of our common stock, enter into a transaction that would have the same effect, or enter into any swap, hedge or other arrangement that transfers, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of our common stock, whether any of these transactions is to be settled by delivery of our common stock or other securities, in cash or otherwise, or publicly disclose the intention to make any such offer, sale, pledge or disposition, or to enter into any such transaction, swap, hedge or other arrangement, without, in each case, the prior written consent of J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. and Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated.

In order to facilitate the offering of the common stock, the underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the common stock. Specifically, the underwriters may over-allot in connection with this offering, creating short positions in the common stock for their own accounts. In addition, to cover over-allotments or to stabilize the price of the common stock, the underwriters may bid for and purchase, common stock in the open market. Finally, the underwriters may reclaim selling concessions allowed to an underwriter or dealer for distributing common stock in this offering, if the underwriters repurchase previously distributed common stock in transactions that cover syndicate short positions, in stabilization transactions or otherwise. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the common stock above independent market levels. The underwriters are not required to engage in these activities and may end any of these activities at any time.

Concurrently with this offering, we are also offering an aggregate of \$400.0 million of equity units (or \$460.0 million if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full) for which the underwriters of this offering are also acting as underwriters under a separate underwriting agreement. The two offerings are not conditioned on each other.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

The underwriters or their affiliates have provided and may in the future continue to provide investment banking and other financial services, including the provision of credit facilities, for us in the ordinary course of business.

### LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters with respect to the common stock will be passed upon for Citizens by Winston & Strawn, New York, New York and by Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, New York, New York for the underwriters.

S-21

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

### PRO FORMA COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

From May 27, 1999 through July 12, 2000, we entered into several agreements to acquire approximately 2.0 million telephone access lines (as of December 31, 2000) for approximately \$6,471.0 million in cash which was subsequently reduced to \$6,321.0 million. These transactions have been and will be accounted for using the purchase method of accounting. The results of operations of the acquired properties have been and will be included in our financial statements from the dates of acquisition of each property. These agreements and the status of each transaction are described as follows:

#### VERIZON (GTE) ACQUISITION

On May 27, September 21, and December 16, 1999, we announced definitive agreements to purchase from Verizon Communications Inc., formerly GTE Corp. (Verizon), approximately 381,200 telephone access lines (as of December 31, 2000) in Arizona, California, Illinois/Wisconsin, Minnesota and Nebraska for approximately \$1,171.0 million in cash. On June 30, 2000, we closed on the Nebraska purchase of approximately 62,200 access lines for approximately \$205.4 million in cash. On August 31, 2000, we closed on the Minnesota purchase of approximately 142,400 access lines for approximately \$438.9 million in cash. On November 30, 2000, we closed on the Illinois/Wisconsin purchase of approximately 112,900 access lines for approximately \$303.9 million in cash. We expect that the remainder of the Verizon transactions which are subject to various state and federal regulatory approvals will close on a state-by-state basis in 2001. Our expected cash requirement to complete the Verizon acquisitions is \$222.8 million in 2001.

#### QWEST ACQUISITION

On June 16, 1999, we announced a series of definitive agreements to purchase from Qwest Communications, formerly U S WEST (Qwest), approximately 556,800 telephone access lines (as of December 31, 2000) in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho/Washington, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota and Wyoming for approximately \$1,650.0 million in cash and the assumption of certain liabilities. On October 31, 2000, we closed on the North Dakota purchase of approximately 17,000 access lines for approximately \$38.0 million in cash. The remainder of the Qwest acquisitions, covering 539,800 access lines, are subject to the satisfaction of certain closing conditions, including, without limitation, financial representations and warranties and the receipt of governmental consents. We have already received all required state regulatory approvals other than from Minnesota. Subject to satisfaction of the required closing conditions, we anticipate closing the acquisitions on a state-by-state basis. We cannot assure you that all required closing conditions will be satisfied. We are currently in discussions with Qwest relating to the satisfaction of closing conditions. We do not believe that the failure to close any or all of the remaining Qwest acquisitions will have a material adverse effect on us, including our ability to implement our telecommunications strategies.

#### GLOBAL CROSSING ACQUISITION

On July 12, 2000, we announced a definitive agreement to purchase from Global Crossing Ltd. (Global) 100% of the stock of the Frontier Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier business, which owns approximately 1.1 million telephone access lines (as of December 31, 2000) in Alabama/Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New York, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, for approximately \$3,650.0 million in cash which price was later reduced to \$3,500.0 million. We have received approval for the proposed purchase from the Federal Communications Commission and all other state Public Service Commissions with the exception of Minnesota. Subject to the timely receipt of the Minnesota regulatory approval, we expect that this transaction will be completed and paid

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

for in full by the end of June 2001.

P-1

The GTE Acquisitions, the Qwest Acquisitions and the Frontier Acquisition are collectively referred to as the Acquisitions. The following unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information of Citizens Communications Company and the Acquisitions, which are referred to as "Pro Forma Citizens Communications Company," has been prepared to illustrate the effects of the Acquisitions and related financing (including the sale of the water, gas and electric properties) had the Acquisitions been completed as of December 31, 2000 for the pro forma balance sheet and at the beginning of the year for the pro forma statement of operations. The Frontier Acquisition on the pro forma balance sheet represents the balance sheet of the Frontier Acquisition as of December 31, 2000. The GTE and Qwest Acquisitions on the pro forma balance sheet represent the assets to be acquired from GTE and Qwest as of December 31, 2000, including our preliminary allocation of purchase price. The amount in shareholders' equity represents the net assets acquired. As stated in the notes to the financial statements of the Qwest Acquisition, corporate overhead expenses are not included in the statement of revenue and expenses.

We have prepared the pro forma financial information using the purchase method of accounting. We expect that we will continue to have increased expenses until all acquisitions are fully integrated. We expect to achieve economies of scale with the acquired properties that will both expedite our ability to provide an expanded menu of telecommunications services and make those services incrementally more profitable but can provide no assurance that such economies will be realized. We expect that these acquisitions will therefore provide us the opportunity to increase revenue and decrease cost per access line. The unaudited pro forma information reflects the increased expenses to the extent they have been incurred in the periods presented, but does not reflect economies of scale.

Certain of our regulated telecommunications operations are subject to the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 71, "Accounting for the Effects of Certain Types of Regulation." SFAS 71 requires regulated entities to record regulatory assets and liabilities as a result of actions of regulators. We are currently evaluating the continued applicability of SFAS 71. We do not expect to account for the assets acquired in the Acquisitions under SFAS 71; as a result, the pro forma financial information does not present the Acquisitions completed and to be completed as if they were accounted for under SFAS 71 pending the outcome of our evaluation.

The pro forma information, presented in this prospectus supplement with regard to our pending acquisitions, while helpful in illustrating the financial characteristics of the combined company, does not attempt to predict or suggest future results. The pro forma information also does not attempt to show how the combined company would actually have performed had the companies been combined at the beginning of the year. If the companies had actually been combined at the beginning of the year, these companies and businesses might have performed differently. You should not rely on pro forma financial information as an indication of the results that would have been achieved if the Acquisitions had taken place earlier or the future results that the companies will experience after completion of these transactions. The unaudited pro forma information does not reflect the impact of any joint venture we may enter into as a financing vehicle. If we enter into a joint venture, we expect our results and financial condition would materially differ from our pro forma results.

These unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements should be read in conjunction with the historical financial statements of the Acquisitions included herein and in the Current Reports on Form 8-K filed by us on November 14, 2000, March 29, 2001 and May 7, 2001 and the historical financial

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

statements of Citizens Communications Company.

P-2

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES  
 PRO FORMA BALANCE SHEET DATA  
 AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2000  
 (UNAUDITED)

	CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS	FRONTIER ACQUISITION	GTE AND QWEST ACQUISITIONS	----- ADJUSTM
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)				
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash.....	\$ 31,223	\$ 41,550	\$ --	\$ 1,855
Accounts receivable, net.....	243,304	1,524,682		(1,835)
Short-term investments.....	38,863	--		(1,411)
Other.....	63,490	41,766		
Assets held for sale.....	1,212,307	--		(1,212)
Assets of discontinued operations.....	673,515	--		(673)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total current assets.....	2,262,702	1,607,998	--	(3,277)
Net property, plant & equipment.....	3,509,767	1,052,745	605,171	
Excess cost over net assets acquired.....	633,268	1,521,250	1,230,529	1,223
Investments.....	214,359	--		
Regulatory assets.....	175,949	--		
Deferred debits and other assets.....	158,961	65,641		(46)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total assets.....	\$6,955,006	\$4,247,634	\$1,835,700	\$ (2,101)
	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>				
Long-term debt due within one year.....	\$ 181,014	\$ 3,142	\$ --	\$
Accounts payable and other current liabilities.....	330,383	1,294,303		(1,139)
Liabilities related to assets held for sale.....	290,575	--		(290)
Liabilities of discontinued operations....	190,496	--		(190)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total current liabilities.....	992,468	1,297,445		(1,620)
Deferred income taxes.....	490,487	120,124		
Customer advances for construction and contributions in aid of construction.....	205,604	--		
Deferred credits and other liabilities....	108,321	148,232		(29)
Regulatory liabilities.....	24,573	--		
Long-term debt.....	3,062,289	116,057		2,400
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total liabilities.....	4,883,742	1,681,858	--	749
Equity forward contracts.....	150,013			
Company Obligated Mandatorily Redeemable Convertible Preferred Securities *.....	201,250	--		
Shareholders' equity.....	1,720,001	2,565,776	1,835,700	450
				(4,401)
				1,100

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

Total liabilities and shareholders' equity.....	\$6,955,006	\$4,247,634	\$1,835,700	\$ (2,101,000)
---	-------------	-------------	-------------	----------------

\*Represents securities of a subsidiary trust, the sole assets of which are securities of a subsidiary partnership, substantially all the assets of which are convertible debentures of the Company.

See Notes to Pro Forma Combined Financial Statements.

P-3

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES  
 PRO FORMA STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS DATA  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000  
 (UNAUDITED)

	GTE ACQUISITIONS					T
	CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS	GTE MINNESOTA	GTE COMBINED ENTITIES	QWEST ACQUISITION	FRONTIER ACQUISITION	
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER-SHARE AMOUNTS)						
Revenue.....	\$1,802,358	\$56,962	\$121,334	\$335,076	\$746,302	\$1,000,000
Operating expenses.....	1,292,950	23,323	44,188	147,635	370,893	1,000,000
Depreciation and amortization.....	387,607	545	28,712	88,802	200,669	1,000,000
Income from operations.....	121,801	33,094	48,434	98,639	174,740	1,000,000
Investment and other income, net.....	3,350	--	--	23,347	64,583	1,000,000
Minority interest.....	12,222	--	--	--	--	1,000,000
Interest expense.....	187,366	1,686	2,933	--	24,067	1,000,000
Income tax expense (benefit).....	(16,132)	12,687	18,105	45,379	103,417	1,000,000
Convertible preferred dividends.....	6,210	--	--	--	--	1,000,000
Income (loss) from continuing operations.....	\$ (40,071)	\$18,721	\$ 27,396	\$ 76,607	\$111,839	\$ 1,000,000
Weighted average shares outstanding--Basic....	261,744					
Weighted average shares outstanding--Diluted...	266,931					
Loss from continuing operations per basic share.....	\$ (0.15)					
Loss from continuing operations per diluted share.....	\$ (0.15)					

ELIMINATION OF GAS

PRO FORMA



Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

	AND ELECTRIC OPERATIONS (1)	ADJUSTMENTS	ADJUSTED
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER-SHARE AMOUNTS)			
Revenue.....	\$597,823	\$ --	\$2,464,209
Operating expenses.....	526,472	9,000 (3)	1,361,517
Depreciation and amortization.....	47,857	228,953 (4) 12,526 (5)	899,957
Income from operations.....	23,494	(250,479)	202,735
Investment and other income, net.....	5,073	(27,770) (6)	58,437
Minority interest.....	--	--	12,222
Interest expense.....	36,056	265,339 (7)	445,335
Income tax expense (benefit).....	(2,417)	(178,622) (8)	(12,789)
Convertible preferred dividends.....	--	--	6,210
Income (loss) from continuing operations.....	\$ (5,072)	\$ (364,926)	\$ (165,362)
Weighted average shares outstanding--Basic....			
Weighted average shares outstanding--Diluted...			
Loss from continuing operations per basic share.....			
Loss from continuing operations per diluted share.....			

See Notes to Pro Forma Combined Financial Statements

P-4

NOTES TO PRO FORMA COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(1) Reflects the effect of the sales of our public utilities services properties, net of estimated income taxes. For the pro forma balance sheet data, cash proceeds from these dispositions are assumed to be the contract price for those properties for which we have reached an agreement with a buyer and signed a definitive contract to sell, and the net book values for those properties not yet under contract. Such net cash proceeds are assumed to aggregate \$1,855.4 million. This results in an addition to retained earnings of \$450.7 million at December 31, 2000 reflecting the estimated net book gain on the sale of these properties. Currently, we have agreements to sell all our water and wastewater operations, one of our electric operations and one of our natural gas operations. The proceeds from these agreements aggregate approximately \$1,380.0 million in cash plus the assumption of certain liabilities. We do not expect any of such properties to be sold at a loss. For the pro forma income statement data, we have eliminated the operations of the gas and electric properties as if they had been disposed of on January 1, 2000. The water operations were classified as discontinued operations and therefore are not included in Citizens pro forma statement of operations data.

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

- (2) Represents the acquisition of the stock of the Frontier Acquisition and the remaining assets to be acquired (as of December 31, 2000) in the GTE and Qwest Acquisitions. Such acquisitions are assumed to be funded through the cash proceeds, net of tax, from the assumed sale of the public utilities services properties, the issuance of long-term debt securities and the issuance of equity securities. The pro forma condensed financial statements assume that debt and equity securities would be issued in amounts that result in a long-term debt to long-term debt and equity ratio of 63% subsequent to the transactions contemplated herein. The following represents the adjustment to record the Acquisitions:

	(IN THOUSANDS)
	-----
Elimination of historical shareholder's equity of the Frontier Acquisition and the net equity in assets acquired and to be acquired of the GTE and Qwest Acquisitions.....	\$ (4,401,476)
Elimination of related party balances of Frontier, net (a).....	289,276
Issuance of long-term debt.....	2,400,000
Issuance of equity.....	1,100,000
Cash proceeds used from sales of public utilities services properties.....	1,835,700
	-----
	\$ 1,223,500
	=====

- (a) The Frontier related party balances are included in accounts receivable, net, other assets, accounts payable and other liabilities. Upon acquisition by Citizens, certain related party balances are settled by Frontier's parent. The remaining amounts, representing a net receivable of \$289.3 million, are assumed by Citizens. All of these related party balances are eliminated as part of the pro forma adjustments with the amount assumed by Citizens resulting in an increase to "Excess cost over net assets acquired."

For purposes of the accompanying pro forma combined financial statements, we have reflected the acquired assets and the assets to be acquired (including our estimate of the GTE and Qwest purchase price allocations) at their historical carrying values and have reflected the excess cost over such amounts as excess cost over net assets acquired. The final allocation of purchase price to assets and liabilities acquired will depend upon the final purchase prices and the final estimates of fair values of assets and liabilities as of the various closing dates. We undertake studies to determine the fair values of assets acquired and allocate the purchase prices accordingly. We believe that the excess cost over historical net assets acquired and to be acquired will be allocated to property, plant and equipment, customer base, other identifiable intangibles and goodwill.

P-5

However, there can be no assurance that the actual allocation will not differ significantly from the pro forma allocation.

- (3) Represents an increase in selling, general and administrative expenses of the GTE Combined Entities to reverse a pension credit recorded during the year ended December 31, 2000 that will not continue.

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

- (4) Reflects amortization expense of the excess cost over net assets acquired in the Acquisitions using the straight-line method over a 15-year period. Should the allocation of purchase price differ significantly as described in Note 2, amortization expense could be impacted since the depreciable lives of assets other than goodwill may be shorter or longer than 15 years.

On September 30, 1999, Global Crossing acquired Frontier Corporation and all of its subsidiaries (including the LEC businesses that we are acquiring), in a merger transaction. In accordance with Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 16, "Business Combinations," the purchase price was allocated to Frontier Corporation and its subsidiaries based upon their fair market values at the date of the acquisition. Frontier was amortizing the associated goodwill over a 25-year period. Citizens included the full year 2000 amortization of goodwill over a 15-year period.

- (5) Represents an adjustment for depreciation expense related to GTE Minnesota since the GTE historical financial statements did not include depreciation related to these assets held for sale.
- (6) Represents the elimination of a gain reported by the Qwest Acquisition associated with the sale of their North Dakota properties to Citizens and the elimination of our investment income related to our bond portfolio sold during 2000 to partially fund the acquisitions.
- (7) Represents pro forma interest expense from the beginning of the year on the debt assumed to have been issued to partially fund the Acquisitions (the interest rate is assumed to be 9.0%).
- (8) Represents adjustments to income taxes based on income before income taxes using the applicable incremental income tax rate.

P-6

\$3,800,000,000

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY

COMMON STOCK  
PREFERRED STOCK  
DEPOSITARY SHARES  
DEBT SECURITIES  
WARRANTS

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CAPITAL TRUST I  
TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES  
GUARANTEED, TO THE EXTENT DESCRIBED HEREIN, BY  
CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY

-----  
Citizens Communications Company intends to offer from time to time common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, debt securities, and warrants to purchase these types of securities. In addition, Citizens Communications Company has established Citizens Communications Capital Trust I, or the Trust, as a Delaware statutory business trust. The Trust intends to offer trust preferred securities. The trust preferred securities will be guaranteed to the extent described herein by Citizens Communications Company. We may sell any combination of these securities in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$3,800,000,000. We will provide specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest.

In this prospectus, references to "Citizens" are to Citizens Communications Company and do not include its subsidiaries. References to the "Trust" are to

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

Citizens Communications Capital Trust I and do not include Citizens. References to the "Company," "we," "us" and "our" do include Citizens, the Trust and its other subsidiaries.

We may sell the securities directly or to or through underwriters or dealers, and also to other purchasers or through agents. The names of any underwriters or agents that are included in a sale of securities to you, and any applicable commissions or discounts, will be stated in an accompanying prospectus supplement.

This prospectus also relates to approximately 9,139,900 shares, or the Resale Shares, of common stock of Citizens that may, from time to time, be sold by the person named in this prospectus under the caption "Selling Stockholder."

The selling stockholder may from time to time sell the Resale Shares on the New York Stock Exchange or on any other national securities exchange on which our common stock may be listed or traded, in negotiated transactions or otherwise, at prices then prevailing or related to the then current market price or at negotiated prices. The Resale Shares may be sold directly or through brokers or dealers. See "Plan of Distribution."

We will receive no part of the proceeds of any sales of the Resale Shares made hereunder. See "Use of Proceeds." All expenses of registration of the Resale Shares incurred in connection with the offering, as well as all selling and other expenses incurred by the selling stockholder, are being borne by us.

A brief description of the securities we, or the selling stockholder, may offer can be found in this prospectus.

Our common stock is quoted on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "CZN." The closing price of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange on May 4, 2001 was \$12.56. None of the other securities that we may offer under this prospectus is currently publicly traded.

-----  
SEE "RISK FACTORS" ON PAGE 4 FOR A DISCUSSION OF MATTERS  
THAT YOU SHOULD CONSIDER BEFORE INVESTING IN THESE SECURITIES.  
-----

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES  
COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR PASSED UPON THE  
ACCURACY OR ADEQUACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY  
IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

The date of this prospectus is May 9, 2001

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
	-----
About This Prospectus.....	3
Risk Factors.....	4
Forward-Looking Statements.....	9
Use of Proceeds.....	10
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.....	10

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

Citizens Communications Company.....	11
Citizens Communications Capital Trust I.....	25
Accounting Treatment.....	25
Selling Stockholder.....	26
Description of Debt Securities.....	27
Description of Capital Stock.....	35
Description of Warrants.....	37
Description of Depositary Shares.....	39
Description of Trust Preferred Securities.....	42
Description of Guarantee.....	43
Plan of Distribution.....	46
Where You Can Find More Information.....	48
Incorporation of Documents by Reference.....	48
Legal Matters.....	49
Experts.....	49

### 2

#### ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This document is called a prospectus and is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission using a "shelf" registration or continuous offering process. Under this shelf process, we may from time to time sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus.

This prospectus provides you with a description of our business, certain risk factors and a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of the securities being offered. That prospectus supplement will include a detailed and current discussion of any risk factors or other special considerations applicable to those securities. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information" and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in that prospectus supplement.

You should rely on the information provided in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement, including the information incorporated by reference. Neither we nor any underwriters or agents have authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not offering the securities in any state where the offer is prohibited. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, or any document incorporated by reference, is truthful or complete at any date other than the date mentioned on the cover page of those documents.

RISK FACTORS

YOU SHOULD CONSIDER CAREFULLY THESE RISK FACTORS TOGETHER WITH ALL OF THE INFORMATION INCLUDED OR INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN THIS PROSPECTUS OR IN ANY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT BEFORE YOU DECIDE TO PURCHASE SECURITIES OFFERED BY THIS PROSPECTUS OR ANY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT. IN ADDITION, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT THE PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT THAT WILL ACCOMPANY THIS PROSPECTUS WILL INCLUDE ANY ADDITIONAL RISK FACTORS THAT MAY SPECIFICALLY APPLY TO THE TYPE OF SECURITY THAT WE WILL OFFER UNDER THE PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT OR THAT MAY OTHERWISE APPLY.

WE MAY BE UNABLE TO OBTAIN NEW FINANCING AND ANY NEW FINANCING WE DO OBTAIN MAY BE ON UNFAVORABLE TERMS.

Since March 1999, we have contracted to purchase 2,034,700 telephone access lines for an aggregate purchase price of \$6,321.0 million. As of March 31, 2001, we have closed on the purchase of 334,500 telephone access lines for an aggregate purchase price of \$985.3 million, which was financed with drawings under our bank credit facilities, the sale of our commercial paper and the sale of marketable securities held by us. We will require \$5,334.8 million to close on the remaining purchases. Our remaining available credit facilities of \$5,553.6 million as of March 31, 2001, together with cash flows, are sufficient to fund these acquisitions as they close.

Our ability to draw on our \$5,700.0 million credit facility will end on October 26, 2001 and the debt outstanding under this facility will mature on October 25, 2002. Accordingly, prior to October 25, 2002, we will need to establish a permanent capital structure consisting of a combination of replacement credit facilities and issuances of long-term debt and equity. We may not be able to obtain sufficient long-term debt financing and equity financing on favorable terms. Our ability to accomplish these objectives is subject to market conditions, relevant regulatory approvals, and our ability to maintain a favorable credit rating. We may only be able to obtain long-term debt financing at higher interest rates than we currently pay or with onerous covenants that could restrict our operating flexibility or adversely affect our overall financial results.

WE WILL NEED TO TAKE ACTION IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN OUR CREDIT RATINGS.

It is our intention to maintain investment grade credit ratings for our senior unsecured indebtedness. In order to do so, we expect to take action to preserve the strength of our balance sheet. More specifically, we expect that we may issue equity or securities that the rating agencies deem to have equity characteristics, refinance our credit facility indebtedness, sell our public utility assets and perhaps raise capital through one or more joint ventures which we expect we would operate and to which we would sell some significant assets. The consummation of any and/or all of these transactions is dependent upon a number of conditions affecting our operations and the capital markets generally, including the receipt of any necessary regulatory approvals, favorable market reception to our issuance of long-term debt and equity securities and our continued success in operating our businesses. Failure to preserve the strength of our balance sheet through some combination of these transactions could result in a downgrading of the ratings applicable to our indebtedness. In addition, if we undertake any further acquisitions, such acquisitions might have a detrimental effect on our credit ratings.

WE MAY BE UNABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY DIVEST OUR PUBLIC UTILITIES SERVICES SEGMENTS IN A TIMELY MANNER WHICH MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR FINANCING PLANS.

A key component of our business strategy involves the divestiture of our public utilities services segments. Failure to sell our public utilities

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

services segments on acceptable terms or to complete agreed sales within agreed time periods may adversely affect our ability to obtain new financing on acceptable terms to continue to expand our telecommunications business internally and to meet competitive challenges. Sales of our public utilities services segments require regulatory approval and in some cases contain financing conditions. We cannot be sure that we will receive the necessary regulatory approvals or financing prior to the expirations of closing deadlines contained in our sale agreements. Therefore, the planned sale of our public utilities services segments may not occur within

4

the anticipated time periods. Examples of delays or factors which may affect our proposed transactions include:

- Our agreements to sell our Arizona and Vermont electric divisions have been terminated due to the failure of the proposed purchaser to obtain financing.
- The California electricity generation crisis has stretched the resources of California utility regulators and may result in delays in approving the sale of our water and wastewater assets. Our agreement for the sale of this business may be terminated if regulatory approval is not received before September 30, 2001.
- The Hawaii Public Utility Commission has denied the initial application requesting approval of the proposed sale of our Kauai electric division to Kauai Island Electric Co-op. Our agreement for the sale of this division may be terminated if regulatory approval is not received before February 2002.

Our failure to consummate these divestitures at the expected prices could adversely affect our financing plans, credit ratings and internal expansion.

UNTIL WE DIVEST OUR PUBLIC UTILITIES SERVICES SEGMENTS WE WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE RISKS OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BUSINESS.

We intend to divest our public utilities services segments in order to focus on the telecommunications sector. Until we complete our divestitures on acceptable terms, we remain subject to continuing risks of the public utilities business. These risks include exposure to rapidly fluctuating prices for gas and electricity in a regulated or partially regulated environment and financial instability in the public utilities industry in certain states. For example:

- In Arizona, we are disputing what we believe to be excessive power costs charged by our power supplier in the amount of \$57.0 million through December 31, 2000. We have deferred charging these costs to consumers and have recorded them as a regulatory asset on our balance sheet in anticipation of recovering certain amounts through renegotiation with the power supplier.
- In Vermont, we belong to a Vermont utility consortium that purchases power from a Canadian power generation facility. Two participants in the consortium, representing an aggregate of 83% of the purchase commitment, have experienced financial difficulties. If they default on their purchase commitments, we, as a 10% participant, and other members of the consortium will be obligated to purchase the defaulting parties' share of power on a pro rata basis. We will be exposed to any price differential between the price that we pay for the power and the market price for the power.
- The market for energy has become more unstable recently, particularly in states such as California. Continued market instability in California or

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

in other jurisdictions may have an adverse effect upon the energy market generally and our operations specifically.

WE HAVE SUBSTANTIAL EXISTING INDEBTEDNESS AND WILL INCUR SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL OBLIGATIONS.

As of March 31, 2001, we had outstanding long-term indebtedness of approximately \$2,981.5 million. This amount includes indebtedness of our 85%-owned subsidiary, Electric Lightwave, Inc., or ELI. We have credit facilities of \$6,350.0 million of which \$5,553.6 million was available as of March 31, 2001 to fund our currently contracted for acquisitions. Through March 31, 2002, we expect \$181.2 million of this indebtedness to mature.

As of March 31, 2001, ELI had outstanding long-term indebtedness of approximately \$885.9 million. ELI has borrowed \$400.0 million under a revolving line of credit with commercial banks that expires on November 21, 2002 and has issued \$325.0 million in indebtedness that matures on May 14, 2004. In addition, ELI has entered into leases for telecommunication facilities, including one with a final purchase option due on April 30, 2002 in the amount of \$110.0 million. We have guaranteed \$911.1 million of indebtedness and other obligations of ELI. We do not expect that ELI will

5

have sufficient resources from internally generated funds to make all of these required payments. Therefore, ELI must rely upon the financial markets and us to refinance all or a portion of this indebtedness. There can be no assurance that ELI will be successful in refinancing this indebtedness. We have committed to continue to finance ELI's cash requirements through a revolving credit facility to ELI in the amount of \$450.0 million that matures on October 30, 2005. As of March 31, 2001, \$58.0 million principal amount was outstanding under this facility.

We must use a portion of our future cash flow from operations to pay the principal and interest on our indebtedness, which will reduce the funds available for our operations, including capital investments and business expenses. This could hinder our ability to adjust to changing market and economic conditions. If we incur significant additional indebtedness, our credit ratings could be adversely affected. As a result, our borrowing costs could increase and our access to capital may be adversely affected.

WE MAY BE UNABLE TO ACHIEVE IMPROVED OPERATING RESULTS FROM OUR NEWLY ACQUIRED OPERATIONS AND EFFICIENTLY INTEGRATE THESE OPERATIONS INTO OUR EXISTING BUSINESS.

In order to accomplish growth in profitability, we will need to increase our revenues per customer through enhanced products and services as well as attract new customers while retaining our existing customer revenue base. In addition, we need to integrate our newly acquired operations into our existing business. Our strategy is premised, in part, on our ability to timely consummate our pending telecommunications acquisitions and to improve operating results in our existing and to-be-acquired telecommunications businesses by introducing new communications products and services, expanding the penetration of existing services and improving operating efficiencies.

The rapid growth in the size of our telecommunications business through our acquisitions and our ongoing transformation into a telecommunications company poses challenges for us to monitor our operations, costs, regulatory compliance, and service quality and to maintain other necessary internal controls. If we are not able to meet these challenges effectively, our results of operations may be harmed.



## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

OUR ACTUAL OPERATING RESULTS WILL DIFFER FROM THE RESULTS INDICATED IN THE PRO FORMA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND THIS COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE VALUE OF THE SECURITIES.

The pro forma information incorporated by reference in this prospectus with regard to our pending acquisitions, while helpful in illustrating the financial characteristics of the combined company, does not attempt to predict or suggest future results. The pro forma information also does not attempt to show how the combined company would actually have performed had the companies and businesses been combined throughout these periods and performance might have been different. You should not rely on pro forma financial information as an indication of the results that would have been achieved if the acquisitions had taken place earlier or the future results that the companies and businesses will experience after completion of these transactions.

In addition, we may enter transactions that would affect our financial condition and the value of the securities. Our pro forma financial statements do not reflect what would be the effect of any transaction, including joint ventures we may enter into.

THE ACCESS CHARGE REVENUES WE RECEIVE MAY BE REDUCED AT ANY TIME.

A significant portion of our revenues comes or is derived from access charges paid by interexchange carriers, or IXCs, for services we provide in originating and terminating intrastate and interstate long-distance telephone calls. The amount of access charge revenues we receive for these services is regulated by the Federal Communications Commission, or FCC, and state regulatory agencies. Recent rulings regarding access charges have lowered the amount of revenue we receive from this source. Additional actions by these agencies could further reduce the amount of access revenues we receive. In addition, a portion of our access revenues is received from state and federal universal

6

service funds based upon the high cost of providing telephone service to certain rural areas. In the future, there may be proposals by state or federal regulatory agencies to eliminate or reduce these revenues. A material reduction in the revenues we receive from these funds would adversely affect our financial results.

WE FACE COMPETITION, WHICH COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT US.

The telecommunications industry is a competitive industry. The traditional dividing lines between long distance, local, wireless, cable and internet services are becoming increasingly blurred. Through mergers and various service integration strategies, services providers are striving to provide integrated solutions both within and across geographic markets. As a diversified full service incumbent local exchange carrier, or ILEC, our competitors are competitive local exchange carriers, or CLECs, and other providers (or potential providers) of services, such as internet service providers, or ISPs, satellite companies, neighboring ILECs and cable companies that may provide services competitive with ours or services that we intend to introduce. We cannot assure you that we will be able to compete effectively with these industry participants in all of our operations.

In addition, wireless providers currently compete in territories of all of our rural telephone exchange subsidiaries. Increased competition from these wireless providers is expected. We cannot predict the effects of greater competition from wireless providers. Furthermore, regions served by access lines that have not had substantial upgrading over the last several years are particularly vulnerable to competition. Until we complete the upgrade of our access lines, the services we provide in the areas served by these access lines

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

are vulnerable to competition from operators of more updated systems.

We expect competition to intensify as a result of the entrance of new competitors and the development of new technologies, products and services. We cannot predict which of many possible future technologies, products or services will be important to maintain our competitive position or what expenditures will be required to develop and provide these technologies, products or services. Our ability to compete successfully will depend on marketing and on our ability to anticipate and respond to various competitive factors affecting the industry, including a changing regulatory environment that may affect our competitors and us differently, new services that may be introduced, changes in consumer preferences, demographic trends, economic conditions and discount pricing strategies by competitors.

ELI FACES SUBSTANTIAL COMPETITION FOR ITS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES FROM LARGER COMPANIES.

ELI's competitors for telecommunications services are primarily larger ILECs, CLECs and IXCs. Because it is not an incumbent provider, ELI's ability to succeed in the telecommunications services market depends to a large extent on its ability to build tailored, value-added network services for business customers and to maintain its customer base and develop additional business customers in its core geographic areas in light of changing technologies.

We anticipate that general pricing competition and pressures will increase significantly. We have not obtained significant market share in any of the areas where we offer our CLEC services, nor do we expect to do so given the size of our telecommunications services markets, the intense competition therein and the diversity of customer requirements. There can be no assurance that we will be able to compete effectively in any of our markets. Furthermore, the recent bankruptcies and weakened financial position of a number of CLECs have resulted in a more demanding operating environment for CLECs, as both customers and suppliers are more concerned about each CLEC's creditworthiness.

MANY OF OUR COMPETITORS HAVE SUPERIOR RESOURCES, WHICH MAY PLACE US AT A COST AND PRICE DISADVANTAGE.

Many of our current and potential competitors have market presence, engineering, technical and marketing capabilities and financial, personnel and other resources substantially greater than ours. In addition, some of our competitors can raise capital at a lower cost than we can. Consequently, some competitors may be able to develop and expand their communications and network infrastructures

7

more quickly, adapt more swiftly to new or emerging technologies and changes in customer requirements, take advantage of acquisition and other opportunities more readily and devote greater resources to the marketing and sale of their products and services than we can. Also, the greater brand name recognition of some competitors may require us to price our services at lower levels in order to win business. Finally, the cost advantages of some competitors may give them the ability to reduce their prices for an extended period of time if they so choose.

OUR COMPANY AND INDUSTRY ARE HIGHLY REGULATED, IMPOSING SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE COSTS AND RESTRICTING OUR ABILITY TO COMPETE IN OUR TARGET MARKETS.

As an ILEC, we are subject to significant regulation from federal, state and local authorities. This regulation restricts our ability to raise our rates, especially in our basic services, and imposes substantial compliance costs on

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

us. Regulation restricts our ability to compete and, in some jurisdictions, it may restrict our ability to expand our services. In addition, changes to the regulations that govern us may have an adverse effect upon our business by reducing the allowable fees that we may charge, imposing additional compliance costs, or otherwise changing the nature of our operations and the competition in our industry.

IN THE FUTURE AS COMPETITION ENTERS OUR MARKETS, WE MAY BE UNABLE TO MEET THE TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS OR EXPECTATIONS OF OUR CUSTOMERS.

The telecommunications industry is subject to significant changes in technology. If we do not replace or upgrade technology and equipment that becomes obsolete, we will be unable to compete effectively because we will not be able to meet the needs or expectations of our customers. Replacing or upgrading our infrastructure could result in significant capital expenditures.

DETERIORATING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS COULD HARM OUR BUSINESS.

Demand for communications products and services may be adversely affected by a downturn in the United States economy as well as changes in the global economy. Key United States economic indicators have recently signaled a softening of the United States economy. As a result, we may experience decreased demand for our communications products and services. A decline in the demand for and usage of communications products and services could have an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Many of ELI's customers are in various internet-related businesses, including internet service providers, some of which have been adversely affected by recent business trends in that sector. To the extent the credit quality of these customers deteriorates or these customers seek bankruptcy protection, ELI's ability to collect receivables, and ultimately its operating results, may be adversely affected.

AS A HOLDING COMPANY WITH RESPECT TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSETS, WE WILL REQUIRE DIVIDENDS FROM SUBSIDIARIES TO MEET CASH REQUIREMENTS OR PAY DIVIDENDS.

Citizens conducts all its telecommunications business operations through its subsidiaries and may arrange for certain telecommunications assets to be held in special purpose legal entities with separate financing. Accordingly, following the divestiture of our public utilities services segments, Citizens' only source of cash to pay dividends or make other distributions on its capital stock or to pay interest and principal on its outstanding indebtedness will be distributions relating to its ownership interest in its telecommunications subsidiaries and affiliates from the net earnings and cash flow generated by such subsidiaries. We cannot be sure that Citizens' telecommunications subsidiaries will generate sufficient cash flow to pay or distribute such dividends or funds, or that applicable state law, regulatory action, and contractual restrictions, including negative covenants contained in any debt instruments of such subsidiaries and affiliates, would permit such dividends, distributions or payments.

8

### FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Our forward-looking statements are subject to a variety of factors that could cause actual results to differ significantly from current beliefs.

Some statements and information contained in this prospectus and in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus are not historical facts, but are "forward-looking statements," as such term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "believes," "expects," "plans," "may," "will," "would," "could," "should," or "anticipates" or the negative of these words or other variations of these words or other comparable words, or by discussions of strategy that involve risks and uncertainties. Forward-looking statements may differ from actual future results due to, but not limited to, those factors referenced under "Risk Factors" and/or any of the following possibilities:

- changes in economic conditions;
- changes in the capital markets;
- changes in industry conditions;
- changes in our credit rating; and
- changes in accounting policies or practices adopted voluntarily or as required by regulations or generally accepted accounting principles.

You should consider these important factors as well as those referenced under "Risk Factors" in evaluating any statement in this prospectus or otherwise made by us or on our behalf. We have no obligation to update or revise these forward-looking statements.

9

### USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as otherwise described in an accompanying prospectus supplement, we plan to use substantially all of the net proceeds from the sale of any securities sold by us, together with internally generated funds and possible future borrowings, to refinance bank borrowings and other extensions of credit, to expand our networks, service offerings and related infrastructure, to fund working capital and pending as well as future acquisitions, to make further investments in related telecommunications businesses as well as for general corporate purposes. Until we use the proceeds of sales by us of any securities covered by this prospectus or any prospectus supplement in this manner, we may temporarily use them to make short-term investments or to reduce short-term borrowings.

All of the Resale Shares offered hereby are being offered by the selling stockholder. We will not receive any of the proceeds of any sales of Resales Shares made hereunder.

The proceeds from the sale of trust preferred securities by the Trust will be invested in junior subordinated notes issued by Citizens. Except as we may otherwise describe in a prospectus supplement, Citizens expects to use the net proceeds from the sale of the junior subordinated notes to the Trust for the purposes set forth above.

### RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table shows our consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges and our consolidated ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred dividends. Earnings consist of income (loss) before income taxes plus fixed charges and preferred dividends. Fixed charges consist of interest charges and an amount representing the interest factor included in rentals (assumed to be one-third) and preference security dividend requirements.

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

	1996	1997	1998	1999 (1)
Consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges.....	3.44	.98	1.28	2.22
Consolidated ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred dividends.....	3.22	.98	1.26	2.14

-----

(1) In 1999, we recorded pre-tax non-operating gains of approximately \$221.0 million related to the sale of our investments in Centennial Cellular Corp., Century Communications Corp. ("Century") and our interest in a cable television joint venture with a subsidiary of Century. Excluding such pre-tax non-operating gains, the ratio of earnings to fixed charges for 1999 is 0.67 and the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred dividends for 1999 is 0.69.

10

### CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY

#### INTRODUCTION

We are a telecommunications-focused company providing wireline communications services primarily to rural areas and small and medium-sized towns and cities as an incumbent local exchange carrier, or ILEC. In addition, we provide competitive local exchange carrier, or CLEC, service to business customers and to other communications carriers in certain metropolitan areas in the western United States through Electric Lightwave, Inc., our 85%-owned subsidiary. We also provide public utility services including natural gas transmission and distribution, electric transmission and distribution and water distribution and wastewater treatment services to primarily rural and suburban customers throughout the United States.

With approximately 1.4 million telephone access lines in 17 states we were the eighth largest local access wireline telephone provider in the United States as of December 31, 2000. Upon consummation of telephone access line acquisitions contracted for during 1999 and 2000, we expect to be the sixth largest ILEC in the United States with approximately 3.1 million telephone access lines in 27 states. In fiscal years 1999 and 2000 revenues from our ILEC services segment were \$903.2 million and \$963.7 million, respectively, and our adjusted EBITDA, operating income plus depreciation and amortization, was \$327.1 million and \$434.1 million, respectively. Revenues in fiscal years 1999 and 2000 from our CLEC services segment were \$187.0 million and \$244.0 million, respectively, and adjusted EBITDA was \$(57.6) million and \$1.8 million respectively.

In 1999, we announced plans to divest our public utilities services segments. Consistent with this effort, we have contracted to sell our water and wastewater utility services segments and portions of our gas and electric properties and are presently engaged in the sale of, or are seeking buyers for, our gas and electric properties. Pending these divestitures, we continue to provide gas and electric utility services and water and wastewater services.

We are incorporated in Delaware, and the address of our principal executive offices is 3 High Ridge Park, Stamford, Connecticut 06905. Our telephone number is (203) 614-5600.

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

The telecommunications industry involves the transmission of voice, data and

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

video communications from the point of origination to the point of termination. The industry has been undergoing rapid change due to deregulation, the construction of additional infrastructure and the introduction of new technologies, which has resulted in increased competition and demand for telecommunications services.

ILECs provide local, toll, access and resale services, sell, install and maintain customer premises equipment and provide directory services. In our primary markets we are the incumbent provider of local exchange service. As a result, we are subject to greater regulation than CLECs and other non-incumbent carriers.

ILECs establish their local market position because they are the primary provider of wire access to users of services in their areas. With these connections to customers, ILECs may provide local network services, network access services, long distance and data services and other related services. The basic "dial-tone" service is subject to substantial regulation, and the other services are subject to various levels of regulation. ILECs compete with other service providers through pricing, customer service, network quality and valued-added services, with the ILECs having an initial advantage as the existing provider of basic telephone services. We believe that we maintain this advantage in a number of the markets in which we operate as an ILEC.

Currently, the five largest ILECs in the United States are Verizon, Qwest, SBC, BellSouth and Sprint and each of them is substantially larger than we are. The structure of the domestic telecommunications industry was strongly influenced by a 1982 court decree that required the divestiture by AT&T of its seven regional Bell operating companies, or RBOCs, and divided the

11

country into approximately 200 local access transport areas, or LATAs, that range in size from metropolitan areas to entire states. The original RBOCs were initially limited to providing local telephone service, access to long distance carriers and "in-region" long distance service, service within a LATA. The right to provide inter-LATA service was initially ceded to AT&T and other long distance carriers, as well as to ILECs other than the RBOCs. However, under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, or the 1996 Act, the RBOCs are permitted to provide inter-LATA long distance service, subject to certain conditions. We, as an ILEC, provide access to long distance services for our ILEC services segment customers.

For each long distance call, the originating and terminating ILECs charge the long distance carrier an access fee to carry the call across their local networks. The long distance carrier charges the customer a fee for its transmission of the call, a portion of which consists of the access fees charged by the originating and terminating ILECs. To encourage the development of competition in the long distance market, the ILECs are required to provide all long distance carriers with access to local exchange service that is "equal in type, quality and price" to that provided to AT&T.

These "equal access" and related provisions were intended to prevent preferential treatment of AT&T and to require that the ILECs charge the same access fees to all long distance carriers, regardless of their volume of traffic. We derive a significant portion of our revenues from these access fees.

Continuing developments in multimedia applications are bringing new entrants to the telecommunications market. Internet service providers and cable television, satellite, entertainment and data transmission companies, for instance, are potential customers for voice, data and video communications over high bandwidth networks.

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

### BUSINESS STRATEGY

We are transforming ourselves into a company that focuses exclusively on providing telecommunication services. We primarily operate in rural areas and small and medium-sized towns where we believe we have a competitive advantage due to our relatively larger size, greater resources, and local focus and lower levels of competition. We believe that our operations in these areas will provide us with steady revenue flow and margin enhancement opportunities. To reach our objective we intend to:

#### TARGET TELECOMMUNICATIONS NEEDS OF RURAL AREAS AND SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED TOWNS AND CITIES.

Following the consummation of our pending acquisitions, we expect to be the among the largest ILECs in the United States (the largest after Verizon, Qwest, SBC, BellSouth and Sprint) and, we believe, the largest ILEC that focuses primarily on serving rural areas and small and medium-sized towns and cities. Apart from the RBOCs, smaller, often family-owned ILECs have traditionally provided wireline telephone services in rural areas. As newer services such as data services, the internet and digital subscriber networks have created a catalyst for growth and consolidation in the telecommunications market, the larger telecommunications companies appear to be focusing their efforts on providing new services to urban markets and are in the process of divesting parts of their rural telephone access lines and exchanges. Many smaller ILECs, on the other hand, lack the resources to improve their networks to provide these enhanced services to their consumers. We believe that, following the consummation of our pending acquisitions, our position as the largest ILEC focusing on rural and smaller markets will enable us to compete effectively against larger competitors because of our market focus and against smaller competitors because of our additional resources and economies of scale.

#### CONTINUE TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIES OF SCALE THROUGH CLUSTERING AND INCREASE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES.

We continually seek the advantages and efficiencies of operating large local and regional telecommunications clusters. When we have completed our currently planned acquisitions, approximately two-thirds of our customers will be located in four states. In addition, a key part of our

12

growth strategy is the acquisition on an opportunistic basis of access lines and exchanges contiguous to our existing network. Locally and regionally-clustered systems enable us to reduce expenses through the consolidation of marketing and support functions and to place more experienced managers at the system level who are better equipped to meet the new competitive and regulatory challenges of today's telecommunications industry. Local and regional clusters will also increase the speed and effectiveness of our product and services deployment, enhancing our ability to increase both customers and revenues.

#### INCREASE PENETRATION RATES OF THE SERVICES OFFERED TO OUR MARKETS.

We intend to increase the penetration of existing value-added services such as second lines and enhanced services, such as call forwarding, conference calling, caller identification, internet, voicemail and call waiting, to our ILEC services segment including our current markets and to-be-acquired markets. At present, the penetration rates for enhanced services in our ILEC services segment in rural areas and small and medium-sized towns and cities are below industry averages. We believe that increased sales of value-added and enhanced services in existing ILEC markets will produce revenue with higher operating margins due to the relatively low marginal operating costs necessary to offer value-added and enhanced services in markets we already serve. We believe that

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

our ability to integrate value-added and enhanced services with our core ILEC services will provide us with the opportunity to capture an increased percentage of our customers' telecommunications expenditures.

RETAIN EXISTING CUSTOMERS AND ATTRACT NEW CUSTOMERS THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY AND IMPROVED MARKETING AND CUSTOMER SERVICES.

Recent improvements in telecommunications technology as well as improvements to our network will allow us to offer new services such as digital subscriber network lines and other high-speed premium-priced data services to our existing and future customer base. We have sought to ensure that our network employs technologically current switching software and is positioned to support network growth. For example, we are gradually deploying digital subscriber line, or DSL, service in parts of our markets to provide broadband access where it is economically feasible. We believe that technological improvements in our existing and future markets will enable us to offer additional services for a low marginal increased operating cost.

STRENGTHEN AND BUILD STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AS A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

We intend to continue to strengthen and build our relationships with local and community groups. Our relationships with such groups assist us in determining the range of features and services that consumers in our markets want. Much of our marketing and advertising efforts are directed to sponsoring local events and activities rather than mass media advertising. We believe that our local and community-based approach helps us build customer loyalty and brand awareness in the areas we serve. In addition, we intend to leverage our assets through strategic partnerships with appropriate partners.

INCREASE UTILIZATION OF OUR CLEC'S HIGH-CAPACITY, INSTALLED, FIBER-OPTIC INFRASTRUCTURE.

ELI is a CLEC that focuses on medium to large markets in the western United States. We presently provide financial support to ELI. ELI's primary focus in 2001 is increasing new and existing customer usage of its high-capacity, installed, fiber-optic infrastructure in its seven major cities and surrounding areas by increasing the penetration of existing on-net buildings and sales to customers that are connected to the network. We intend to continue to grow ELI's business so that it can operate profitably on a stand-alone basis.

DIVEST OUR PUBLIC UTILITIES SERVICES SEGMENT'S BUSINESS AND ASSETS.

As part of our strategy to transform our business focus entirely to that of a telecommunications services provider, we are in the process of monetizing our public utilities services segment's assets. We have entered into agreements to sell all of our water and wastewater treatment businesses, our Louisiana natural gas business and our Hawaii electric business and seek to dispose of the remainder of our public utilities services business and assets. Successful implementation of this divestiture program will allow us to focus on our core telecommunications business while simultaneously providing us with an internal source for a portion of the financing necessary for enlarging our telephone access line network.

13

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Our telecommunications services are principally ILEC services and also include CLEC services delivered through ELI. As of December 31, 2000, we operated ILECs in 17 states, serving approximately 1.4 million access lines. Our ILEC services segment is presently marketed under the Citizens name but we



## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

intend to market these services under the Frontier name following the closing of the Frontier acquisition. Our CLEC services segment is marketed under the Electric Lightwave name and provides a variety of integrated telecommunications products designed to meet the customer's total communications needs.

### ILEC SERVICES

Our ILEC services segment accounted for \$963.7 million, or 53.5%, of our revenues in fiscal year 2000. In fiscal year 2000, approximately 56% of our ILEC services segment revenues came from federal and state universal service charges through the federal and local governments and regulated access charges paid by long distance operators and CLECs. Between 1990 and 2000 the population in our service areas grew overall by approximately 6%. In 1999 and 2000 the number of telephone access lines in our historic telephone systems increased by 4.8% and 4.0%, respectively.

Our ILEC services business is primarily with retail customers and, to a lesser extent, business customers. Our ILEC services segment provides:

- local network services,
- enhanced services,
- network access services,
- long distance and data services, and
- directory services.

**LOCAL NETWORK SERVICES.** We provide telephone wireline access services in our service areas primarily to residential customers. We are the incumbent provider of basic telephone services in our service areas. Our present service areas are generally less densely populated than what we believe to be the primary service areas of the five largest ILECs.

**ENHANCED SERVICES.** We offer our ILEC customers the following enhanced service features: call forwarding, conference calling, caller identification, voicemail and call waiting. We recently introduced Citizens Select and Citizens Select Plus as branded bundles of telecommunications services directed at our retail customer base in a majority of our markets. These plans permit customers to bundle their residential line with custom local area signaling services, or CLASS, and custom calling features for a single flat rate. Citizens Select allows customers to choose up to seven features with their residential line while Citizens Select Plus allows customers to bundle with their residential line as many features as desired plus voicemail. In connection with the pending Frontier acquisition, we may rebrand some or all of these services.

**NETWORK ACCESS SERVICES.** We provide network access services to long distance carriers and other customers in connection with the use of our facilities to originate and terminate interstate and intrastate long distance telephone calls. We provide originating and switched terminating services to long distance carriers through switched services network. Such services are generally offered on a month-to-month basis and the service is billed on a minutes-of-use basis. Access charges to long distance carriers and other customers are based on access rates filed with the FCC for interstate services and with the respective state regulatory agency for intrastate services.

**LONG DISTANCE AND DATA SERVICES.** Long distance network service to and from points outside of a telephone company's operating and data territories is provided by interconnection with the facilities of interexchange carriers, or IXC's. We believe that many customers prefer the convenience of obtaining their long distance service through their local telephone company and receiving a

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

single bill.

We also offer data services including internet dial up service, digital subscriber lines, frame relay and asynchronous transfer mode, or ATM, switching. As part of our integration strategy, we offer a

14

solution whereby other ILEC companies resell our integrated services. We offer this integrated solution to most of our customers.

**DIRECTORY SERVICES.** Directory services involves the provision of residential and business directories. We provide this service through a third party contractor who pays us a percentage of its revenues realized from the directories.

### ILEC ASSET ACQUISITIONS

We continually evaluate the possibility of acquiring additional telecommunications assets. Over the past few years, the number and size of available telecommunications assets has increased substantially. Although our primary focus will continue to be the acquisition of telephone access lines, exchange and operators that are proximate to our existing systems or that serve a customer base large enough for us to operate efficiently, we may also acquire other telecommunications interests.

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to our telephone access lines as of December 31, 2000 and the additional lines we intend to acquire upon the expected closing of each of the referenced acquisitions.

STATE	CITIZENS (1)	VERIZON (2) ACQUISITION	QWEST (2) ACQUISITION	FRONTIER (2) ACQUISITION	TOTAL
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
New York.....	339,100	--	--	698,200	1,037,3
Minnesota.....	142,400	--	187,100	129,600	459,1
Arizona.....	163,000	8,600	171,500	--	343,1
California.....	145,600	55,100	--	--	200,7
West Virginia.....	153,200	--	--	--	153,2
Illinois.....	112,200	--	--	20,100	132,3
Iowa.....	--	--	53,200	60,400	113,6
Tennessee.....	102,500	--	--	--	102,5
Nebraska.....	62,200	--	14,900	--	77,1
Wisconsin.....	27,800	--	--	44,800	72,6
Idaho.....	21,700	--	33,900	--	55,6
Colorado.....	--	--	51,400	--	51,4
Pennsylvania.....	1,500	--	--	42,900	44,4
Georgia.....	--	--	--	29,000	29,0
Nevada.....	28,300	--	--	--	28,3
Alabama.....	--	--	--	27,700	27,7
Michigan.....	--	--	--	27,200	27,2
Utah.....	23,700	--	--	--	23,7
Montana.....	9,000	--	11,900	--	20,9
North Dakota.....	17,000	--	--	--	17,0
Oregon.....	15,100	--	--	--	15,1
Washington.....	--	--	10,000	--	10,0
New Mexico.....	6,900	--	--	--	6,9
Mississippi.....	--	--	--	6,500	6,5
Wyoming.....	--	--	5,900	--	5,9

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

Indiana.....	--	--	--	5,700	5,7
Florida.....	--	--	--	4,600	4,6
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total.....	1,371,200	63,700	539,800	1,096,700	3,071,4
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

-----

(1) Represents telephone access lines owned or acquired through December 31, 2000 from Verizon (Nebraska, Minnesota and Illinois/Wisconsin) and Qwest (North Dakota).

(2) Represents telephone access lines in acquisitions pending as of December 31, 2000.

We intend to fully integrate our acquisitions with existing core telephone access line holdings by the end of the first half of 2002. We are acquiring telephone access lines on a state-by-state basis from each of Verizon and Qwest. As of December 31, 2000, we have acquired assets in several Verizon states, including Nebraska (62,200 access lines), Minnesota (142,400 access lines), Illinois/Wisconsin

15

(112,900 access lines), and one Qwest state, North Dakota (17,000 access lines). We expect the Frontier acquisition to close as a single transaction during the first half of 2001.

Unlike the Verizon and Qwest acquisitions, which consist of exchanges only, the Frontier acquisition includes the operations, in addition to the assets, of Frontier Corp.'s ILEC businesses. Approximately one-half of the Frontier access lines are in the Rochester, New York metropolitan area and will give us substantially all of the wireline market share in Rochester. Rochester will be our sole metropolitan area telephone system at this time.

#### ILEC TECHNOLOGY

In 1999 we entered into a three-year agreement to outsource central office engineering of our ILEC switching facilities. This agreement provides for provisioning of current technology for our switching facilities, deploying the latest switch software throughout our network, provisioning of switch capacity to support network growth, integrating acquired properties onto a common network platform and providing other project management and service support resources. These improvements to our network will allow us to continue to offer enhanced services and other high-speed data services to our existing and future customer base.

In addition, as we upgrade and extend our physical plant and operations over the next several years, the installation of digital switches and related software will continue to be an important component of our business strategy, as these features enhance our ability to offer additional services. We are in the process of installing advanced digital switching platforms in parts of our switching network. We expect to achieve cost reductions through the elimination of duplicative services and procedures and the consolidation of administrative functions. We believe that additional cost reductions may be obtainable from advanced switching platforms and outside plant delivery systems. We intend to pursue additional gains in productivity by investing in these technologies where feasible and by reengineering customer service processes.

#### CLEC SERVICES

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

ELI provides a broad range of wireline communications products and services to businesses in the western United States. ELI accounted for \$240.8 million, or 13.4%, of our revenues in fiscal year 2000.

ELI's facilities-based network consists of optical fiber plus voice and data switches. ELI has a national internet and data network with switches and routers in key cities, linked by leased transport facilities. As of December 31, 2000, ELI had 5,924 local and long-haul route miles of fiber-optic cable in service. During 2000, ELI completed construction of its long-haul fiber-optic Synchronous Optical Network, or SONET, network. ELI provides a full range of its services in the following seven cities and their surrounding areas: Boise, Idaho; Portland, Oregon; Salt Lake City, Utah; Seattle, Washington; Spokane, Washington; Phoenix, Arizona and Sacramento, California. This network spans more than 3,200 miles, crosses seven states and is one of the largest OC-192 SONET systems in the western United States. The network will include Dense Wave Division Multiplexing, or DWDM, equipment and will support voice and data traffic at speeds up to OC-192. DWDM is a technique for transmitting 16 or more different light-wave frequencies at speeds up to OC-192 on a single fiber to increase transmission capacity.

### DESCRIPTION OF CLEC SERVICES BUSINESS

ELI offers switched service, including local dial tone, from eight Nortel DMS 500 switches in the seven metropolitan areas that ELI serves. This permits ELI to offer both voice and data services in these areas. ELI also has transmission equipment collocated with switches of the relevant ILEC operators at 55 locations.

ELI has broadband points of presence in the following cities: Atlanta, Georgia; Austin, Texas; Chicago, Illinois; Cleveland, Ohio; Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado; Houston, Texas; Las Vegas, Nevada; Los Angeles, California; New York, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; San Diego,

16

California; San Francisco, California and Washington, D.C. This permits ELI to offer high-capacity data services in these areas.

ELI has developed an internet backbone network that provides internet connectivity in each of its markets, including presence at all major network access points, and offers peering arrangements with other internet backbone service providers. A peering arrangement is an agreement where internet backbone service providers agree to allow each other direct access to internet data contained on their networks. ELI's broadband network consists of frame relay switches, ATM switches and network-to-network interfaces. ELI provides national and international coverage to its customers through strategic relationships with other communications providers.

ELI owns or leases broadband, long-haul fiber-optic network connections between major cities in the western United States and within strategic markets across the nation. ELI seeks to maximize utilization of its network facilities and minimize network access costs and other interconnection costs.

In the development of its long-haul facilities, ELI has formed strategic relationships with utility companies that enable it to use existing rights-of-way and fiber-optic facilities, use the construction expertise and local permitting experience of such companies and minimize its near-term cash requirements. These relationships allow ELI to extend its network infrastructure more quickly and economically.

In 1999, ELI entered into a fiber-swap agreement to exchange unused fiber on its network for unused fiber on another carrier's network. This fiber-swap

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

agreement will provide ELI with a fiber route from Salt Lake City to Dallas, routed through Denver.

### REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

#### ILEC SERVICES REGULATION

The 1996 Act dramatically changed the landscape of the telecommunications industry. The main thrust of the 1996 Act was to open local telecommunications marketplaces to competition while enhancing universal service. We expect the 1996 Act, subsequent state and federal regulatory rulings and technological changes to lead to an overall reduction in the level of regulation for the telecommunications industry. Although the majority of our operations continues to be regulated extensively by various state regulatory agencies, often called public service commissions, and the FCC, we may experience reductions in the level of regulation for some of our ILEC operations in the future. However, upon the anticipated closing of the Frontier acquisition and of the remaining Qwest acquisitions, certain of our systems may be subject to a higher degree of scrutiny from the FCC and the applicable public service commissions. In any event, we are currently unable to determine the ultimate degree of reduction or increase in regulation in our operating territories.

The 1996 Act preempts state and local laws to the extent that they prevent competitive entry into the provision of any communications service. Under the 1996 Act, however, states retain authority to impose requirements on carriers necessary to preserve universal service, protect public safety and welfare, ensure quality of service and protect consumers. States are also responsible for mediating and arbitrating interconnection agreements between CLECs and ILECs if voluntary negotiations fail.

In order to create an environment in which local competition is a practical possibility, the 1996 Act imposes a number of access and interconnection requirements on all local communications providers. All local carriers must interconnect with other carriers, permit resale of their services, provide local telephone number portability and dialing parity, provide access to poles, ducts, conduits, and rights-of-way, and complete calls originated by competing carriers under reciprocal compensation or mutual termination arrangements.

Many of our properties continue to be regulated under a regime that sets prices for a specific property based on its level of earnings. As a result of recent legislation enabling regulators to reduce the level of regulation in certain states and at the federal level, we have elected incentive regulation plans under which prices are capped in return for the elimination or relaxation of earnings oversight. Some states also allow us flexibility in price changes for optional services and relaxed reporting

17

requirements. The goal of these incentive regulation plans is to provide incentives to improve efficiencies and increase pricing flexibility for competitive services while ensuring that customers receive reasonable rates for basic services that continue to be deemed part of a monopoly while allowing us to continue to recover our costs in rates.

Approximately 85% of our ILEC services segment revenue is subject to regulation including incentive regulation. The FCC regulates approximately 34% of this revenue, while various state regulatory agencies regulate approximately 51% of this revenue. We expect state lawmakers to continue to review the statutes governing the level and type of regulation for telecommunications services. Over the next few years, legislative and regulatory actions are expected to provide opportunities to restructure rates, introduce more flexible incentive regulation programs and possibly reduce the overall level of

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

regulation. While we still believe that such actions will nonetheless allow us to recover our costs in revenues, we expect the election of incentive regulation plans and the expected reduction in the overall level of regulation to allow us to introduce new services more expeditiously than in the past.

For interstate services regulated by the FCC, we have elected a form of incentive regulation known as price caps. Under price caps, interstate access rates are capped and adjusted annually by the difference between the level of inflation and a productivity factor. Most recently the productivity factor was set at 6.5%. Given the relatively low inflation rate in recent years, interstate access rates have been adjusted downward annually. In May 2000, the FCC adopted a revised methodology for regulating the interstate access rates of price cap companies through May 2005. The new program, known as the Coalition for Affordable Local and Long Distance Services, or CALLs plan, establishes a price floor for interstate-switched access services and phases out many of the subsidies in interstate access rates. Though the end-user charges and an expanded universal service program will continue to benefit rural service providers such as our ILEC services segment, we believe we will be able to offset some of the reduction in interstate access rates. Annual adjustments based on the difference between inflation and the 6.5% productivity factor will continue for several years until the price floor for interstate switched access services is reached.

We believe that the CALLs plan has potential benefits for us in the long term. Although some of the required rate reductions are front loaded, the price floor provides a degree of certainty that rate reductions will be curtailed in the future. We were successful in negotiating a price floor that recognized the unique cost characteristics of rural telecommunications providers as opposed to being forced into a one size fits all program designed for larger companies. Under the CALLs plan, for many of our properties, the price floor is higher than the rate level that would have been required over time under the previous rate programs. In addition, shifting revenue from interstate access services to end user customers and universal service programs provides us more control over future revenue as access customers seek alternatives to switched access services.

In 1998, the FCC determined that the federal universal service fund, or USF, for non-rural companies would be based on a forward-looking cost methodology, but chartered a Rural Task Force, or RTF, to develop a recommendation for the funding methodology for rural companies. Since many of our current properties are classified as rural, our federal USF will be driven by the rural methodology that is still under development. In October 2000, the RTF recommended the use of embedded cost instead of forward-looking costs to determine the USF for rural companies. In addition, the RTF suggested the FCC should adjust the caps on the USF to recognize inflation and allow rural companies the opportunity to recover some of the costs associated with incremental investment.

The FCC has historically required an acquiring company to cap its federal USF for acquired exchanges at the level of the selling company. Since the seller often includes the acquired exchanges in a much larger USF study area, the amount of USF is often negligible. In addition, the purchasing company is not able to include its new investment in the USF calculation. The RTF concluded that this cap might deter investment in acquired properties. In addition, the FCC has historically capped certain corporate expenses. The RTF recommended this expense cap be indexed to reflect inflation. In December 2000, the Federal/State Universal Service Joint Board recommended that the FCC adopt the

RTF recommendations. Although the final FCC decision is still uncertain, if the FCC agrees with the Joint Board, the combination of the embedded cost methodology and some relief on the caps should provide rural providers like us

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

with a more stable source of USF money over the next few years.

Another goal of the 1996 Act was to remove implicit subsidies from the rates charged by local telecommunications companies. The CALLs plan addressed this requirement for interstate services. State legislatures and regulatory agencies are beginning to reduce the implicit subsidies in intrastate rates. The most common subsidies are in access rates that historically have been priced above their costs to allow basic local rates to be priced below cost. Legislation has been considered in several states to require regulators to eliminate these subsidies and implement state universal service programs where necessary to maintain reasonable basic local rates. However, not all the reductions in access charges are fully offset. In Tennessee for example, as a result of such legislation, we will be reducing intrastate access rates by \$1 million per year for three years beginning in 2001. We anticipate additional state legislative and regulatory pressure to lower intrastate access rates in the near future. However, regulators are cognizant of the potential impact on basic local rates and are moving cautiously. Many states are embracing the need for state universal service funds to ensure protection for customers while ensuring that local telecommunications companies continue to have the incentive to recover in rates their investment in their networks and new services.

State legislatures and regulators are also examining the provision of telecommunications services to previously unserved areas. Since many unserved areas are located in rural markets, we may be required to expand our service territory into some of these areas. Given the start-up costs involved with territory expansion, we expect legislatures and regulators to continue to move cautiously and provide some means of recovery for the costs associated with serving these new areas.

### CLEC SERVICES REGULATION

The 1996 Act dramatically changed the national public policy framework for telecommunications. A central focus of this sweeping policy reform was to open local communications markets to competition. One result of the 1996 Act has been the development of CLECs which compete for business with the existing carriers. As a CLEC, ELI is subject to federal, state and local regulation. However, the level of regulation is typically less than an ILEC. The FCC exercises jurisdiction over all interstate communications services. State commissions retain jurisdiction over all intrastate communications services. Local governments may require ELI to obtain licenses or franchises regulating the use of public rights-of-way necessary to install and operate its networks.

The FCC exercises regulatory jurisdiction over all facilities of, and services offered by, communications common carriers to the extent those facilities are used to provide, originate or terminate interstate communications. The FCC has established different levels of regulation for "dominant" carriers and "nondominant" carriers. The FCC regulates many of the rates, charges and services of dominant carriers to a greater degree than those of nondominant carriers. As a nondominant carrier, ELI may install and operate facilities for domestic interstate communications without prior FCC authorization. ELI is no longer required to maintain tariffs for domestic interstate long distance services. As a provider of international long distance services, ELI obtained FCC operating authority and maintains an international tariff. However, the FCC is also eliminating the requirement for international tariffs. ELI is also required to submit certain periodic reports to the FCC and pay regulatory fees.

RBOCs had been barred from participating in the market for inter-LATA services, which is primarily long-distance traffic, in their service territories since the break up of the Bell System in 1984. The 1996 Act provides a mechanism for an RBOC and/or any successors to enter in-region inter-LATA markets. Full entry by the companies into inter-LATA markets will increase the level of

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

competition faced by our long distance services. Before an RBOC or its successors can enter an inter-LATA market it must first meet specific criteria set out by section 271 of the 1996 Act. These criteria are commonly referred to as the "14 point checklist". The checklist is meant to ensure that these companies have opened up their local markets to competition before they compete in the long-distance markets in their regions. Verizon

19

and SBC Communications have both successfully filed inter-LATA applications with the FCC for some of their states.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

ELI has various interconnection agreements in the states in which it operates. These agreements govern reciprocal compensation relating to the transport and termination of traffic between the ILEC's and ELI's networks. On February 25, 1999, the FCC issued a Declaratory Ruling and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that categorized calls terminated to internet service providers, or ISPs, as "largely" interstate in nature, which could have the effect of precluding these calls from reciprocal compensation charges. However, the ruling stated that the existing interconnection agreements and the state decisions that have defined them bind ILECs. The FCC gave the states authority to interpret existing interconnection agreements. Since this FCC order, five states in which we operate, Oregon, Washington, California, Utah and Arizona, have ruled that calls terminated to ISPs should be included in the calculation to determine reciprocal compensation. However, the FCC is expected to readdress this issue in 2001.

Most state public service commissions require competitive communications providers, such as ELI, to obtain operating authority prior to initiating intrastate services. Most states also require the filing of tariffs or price lists and customer-specific contracts. ELI is not currently subject to rate-of-return or price regulation. However, ELI is subject to state-specific quality of service, universal service, periodic reporting and other regulatory requirements, although the extent of these requirements is generally less than those applicable to ILECs.

### COMPETITION

#### ILEC SERVICES COMPETITION

The 1996 Act and subsequent FCC interconnection decisions have established the relationships between ILECs and CLECs and the mechanisms for competitive market entry. Though carriers like us, who serve predominantly rural markets, did receive a qualified exemption from some of the technical requirements imposed upon all ILECs for interconnection arrangements, we did not receive an exemption from interconnection or local exchange competition in general. The exemption, known as the rural telephone company exemption, continues until a bona fide request for interconnection is received from a CLEC and a state public services commission with jurisdiction determines that discontinuance of the exemption is warranted. The state commission must determine that discontinuing the exemption will not adversely impact the availability of universal service in the state nor impose an undue economic hardship on us and that the requested interconnection is technically feasible.

Though much of the initial competition in local telecommunications has been in more densely populated urban areas, we have begun to experience competition in some of our suburban and rural markets. These competitors mainly serve internet service providers and a few large business customers, but competition for residential customers is present in isolated areas.



## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

Under the 1996 Act and subsequent FCC and state rules, CLECs can compete using one or more of three mechanisms:

- Construction of its own local exchange facilities, in which case the ILEC's sole obligation is interconnection for purposes of traffic interchange.
- Purchase unbundled network elements, or UNEs, at cost from the ILEC and assemble them into local exchange services and/or supplement the facilities it already owns.
- Resale of the ILEC's retail services purchased at wholesale rates from the ILEC.

Some competitors have taken advantage of an ILEC's requirement to pay the CLEC reciprocal compensation for traffic delivered to the CLEC. The increase of traffic over the Internet has provided CLECs with an immediate mechanism to build traffic and reciprocal compensation revenues. In 2000, our ILECs paid \$1.9 million in reciprocal compensation. While our ILECs are reciprocal compensation payors, ELI is a reciprocal compensation receiver. We expect the spread of Digital Subscriber Line and

20

other high speed network services that give customers a dedicated link to the internet, as well as the rural nature of our markets and expected actions by the FCC and the United States Congress to limit the future growth of reciprocal compensation.

Beginning in late 1999, the FCC expanded the availability of UNEs by requiring ILECs to offer subloop unbundling, expanded extended loops, or EELs, and line sharing. Pursuant to this FCC decision, CLECs can purchase a portion of the ILECs' loop facilities at cost-based rates as opposed to the entire loop. EELs allow CLECs to purchase links to customer premises located outside the exchange where the CLEC is physically located at cost-based rates. Line sharing allows ILECs to purchase just the high frequency portion of the loop that permits the CLEC to offer high-speed data services more profitably, but leave the lower margin voice services for the same customer with the ILEC. In addition to expanding the availability of UNEs, in August 2000, the FCC expanded collocation requirements to include cageless collocation in ILEC facilities. These FCC decisions increase the CLECs' opportunities to reach customers economically thereby increasing their ability to compete.

Under the 1996 Act, the RBOCs and their successors were precluded from competing in most long-distance markets until they satisfied the state regulatory authority and the FCC that their markets had been sufficiently opened to local exchange competition. Beginning in 1999, state regulators and the FCC began to allow the RBOCs and their successors to enter the long-distance market in some states. By the end of February 2001, RBOC long-distance entry was only allowed in New York, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. However, we expect additional states to follow suit in the near future. Because we currently offer long-distance service in New York and other states, it is possible that the entry of the RBOCs and their successors into this market could adversely impact our operations.

Though much of the initial competition in local telecommunications has been in more densely populated urban areas, we have begun to experience competition in some of our suburban and rural markets.

As of December 31, 2000, we had entered into 88 interconnection agreements. These agreements allow CLECs to connect with some of our ILEC networks and compete in our ILEC markets. In addition, in some markets, our ILEC services

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

provide reciprocal compensation payments and local number portability. These competitors are mainly serving large business customers and internet service providers. Competition for residential customers is present in isolated areas.

### CLEC SERVICES COMPETITION

ELI faces significant competition from ILECs in each of its facilities-based markets. Principal ILEC competitors include Qwest, SBC and Verizon.

Facility and non-facility based CLEC competitors in ELI's markets include, among others: AT&T Local Services, Time Warner Telecom, MCI WorldCom and XO Communications. In each of the markets in which ELI operates, at least one other CLEC, and in some cases several other CLECs, offer many of the same local communications services that ELI provides, generally at similar prices.

Potential and actual new market entrants in the local communications services business include RBOCs and their successors entering new geographic markets, IXCs, cable television companies, electric utilities, international carriers, satellite carriers, teleports, microwave carriers, wireless telephone system operators and private networks built by large end users. In addition, the current trend of business combinations and alliances in the communications industry, including mergers between RBOCs and their successors, may increase competition for ELI. With the passage of the 1996 Act and the entry of RBOCs and their successors into the long distance market, IXCs may be motivated to construct their own local facilities or otherwise acquire the right to use local facilities and/or resell the local services of ELI's competitors.

21

Competition for network services is based on price, quality, network reliability, customer service, service features and responsiveness to the customer's needs. As a point of differentiation from the ILECs, ELI's fiber-optic networks provide both diverse access routing and redundant electronics, design features not widely deployed within the ILEC's networks.

ELI's competitors for high-speed data services include major IXCs, other CLECs and various providers of niche services, such as internet access providers, router management services and systems integrators. The interconnectivity of ELI's markets may create additional competitive advantages over other data service providers that must obtain local access from the ILEC or another CLEC in each market or that cannot obtain intercity transport rates on terms as favorable as those available to ELI.

The market for internet access and related services in the United States is extremely competitive, with barriers to entry related to capital costs, bandwidth capacity and internal provisioning and operations processes. We expect that competition will intensify as existing services and network providers and new entrants compete for customers. In addition, new enhanced internet services such as managed router service and web hosting are constantly under development in the market and we expect additional innovation in this market by a range of competitors. ELI's current and future competitors include communications companies, including the RBOCs and their successors, IXCs, CLECs and cable television companies and other internet access providers.

Many of these competitors have greater market presence and greater financial, technical, marketing and human resources, more extensive infrastructure and stronger customer and strategic relationships than are available to us.

### PUBLIC UTILITIES SERVICES

We have historically provided public utilities services including natural

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

gas transmission and distribution, electric transmission and distribution, water distribution and wastewater treatment services to primarily rural and suburban customers throughout the United States. In May 1998, we announced a plan of divestiture for our public utilities services properties. In 1999, we initially accounted for the planned divestiture of our public utilities services segments as discontinued operations. Because we have not yet entered into agreements to sell our entire gas and electric segments, we reclassified all our gas and electric assets and their related liabilities in the second half of 2000 as "net assets held for sale." As a result, our discontinued operations only reflect the assets and related liabilities of the water and wastewater businesses.

### NATURAL GAS

Our natural gas segment provides natural gas transmission and distribution services in Louisiana, Arizona and Colorado, as well as synthetic natural gas and propane service in Hawaii to 473,500 primarily residential customers. Our natural gas segment accounted for \$374.8 million, or 20.8%, of our revenues in fiscal year 2000.

Natural gas services and/or rates charged are subject to the jurisdiction of federal and state regulatory agencies, except for the non-regulated propane rates charged to customers in Hawaii. We purchase the gas supply we need, except for our production of synthetic natural gas in Hawaii. We believe our natural gas supply is adequate to meet current demands and to provide for additional sales to new customers. The natural gas industry is subject to seasonal demand, except in Hawaii, with the peak demand occurring during the heating season of November 1 through March 31. Our natural gas segment experiences third-party competition from fuel oil, propane and other gas suppliers for most of our large consumption customers, of which there are few, and from electric suppliers for all of our customer base. The competitive position of gas at any given time depends primarily on the relative prices of gas and these other energy sources.

22

### ELECTRIC

Our electric segment provides electric transmission and distribution services in Arizona, Hawaii and Vermont to 123,500 primarily residential customers. Our electric segment accounted for \$223.1 million, or 12.4%, of our revenues in fiscal year 2000.

Electric services and/or rates charged are subject to the jurisdiction of federal and state regulatory agencies. We purchase approximately 81% of the electric energy needed to provide services to our customers. We believe our supply is adequate to meet current demands and to provide for additional sales to new customers. The majority of our generating facilities are on Kauai, Hawaii. We also have generating facilities in Arizona and Vermont, which are used mainly for back-up power supply. Generally, our electric segment does not experience material seasonal fluctuations.

The electric utility industry in the United States is undergoing fundamental changes. For many years electric utilities have been vertically integrated entities with the responsibility for the generation, transmission and distribution of electric power in a franchise territory. In return for monopoly status, electric utilities have been subject to comprehensive regulation at the state and federal level. The industry is now shifting toward electric customers being able to choose their energy provider much like telephone customers are able to choose their long distance provider. Generally, this involves splitting apart the generation and transmission of power from the remainder of the business, and having generators compete with one another in the sale of power directly to retail customers. The interconnected regional transmission grids will be operated independently, continuing as a federally regulated monopoly.

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

Local transmission and distribution facilities would continue as state-regulated monopolies. This change in the industry is in various stages of development around the United States. The pace and degree of regulation vary from state to state.

During the past year power supply costs have increased substantially, forcing distribution companies to incur higher costs to operate their electric businesses. As a result, companies have employed several varied tactics to try to control or offset these costs. These tactics include renegotiating prices with power suppliers and attempting to pass increased power costs on to customers through automatic adjustment mechanisms or rate proceedings. Regulators have resisted these efforts in an attempt to avoid a sudden, steep increase in electric rates, known as "rate shock." Pending final resolution of these issues, we will, where appropriate, seek authority to defer these costs in hopes of being allowed to recover them in the future. In addition, distribution companies have disputed past charges from their power suppliers. In Arizona, we are currently disputing with our power supplier the amount of what we believe are excessive power costs charged by our power supplier which, through December 31, 2000, total approximately \$57.0 million.

Our Vermont Electric Division is a member of the Vermont Joint Owners, a consortium of 14 Vermont utilities that has entered into a purchase power agreement with a Canadian power generation facility. The agreement provides for up to 450 MW of power and associated energy to be delivered to Vermont, in varying amounts, between 1990 and 2020. If any member of the consortium defaults on its share of power under the agreement, the remaining members of the consortium are required by "step-up" provisions of the agreement to assume responsibility for a defaulting member's share on a pro-rata basis. Currently the agreement's pricing exceeds market levels, and the Vermont Public Service Board has been unwilling to allow all members of the consortium full recovery through rates of power costs associated with the contract. The Vermont Board's decision has put at least one of the members of the consortium in a precarious financial condition. If the Vermont Board persists in its refusal and thereby forces one or more members of the consortium to default on their obligations under the contract, such default could shift significant additional cost burdens to our Vermont electric division.

On February 15, 2000, we announced that we had agreed to sell our electric services segment. Our Arizona and Vermont electric divisions were under contract to be sold, but the parties terminated the agreement on March 7, 2001 due to the failure of the proposed purchaser to raise the required financing

23

and obtain the required regulatory approval necessary to meet its obligations under the contract for sale. We intend to pursue the disposition of the Vermont and Arizona electric divisions with alternative buyers.

In August 2000, the Hawaii Public Utility Commission, or HPUC, denied the application requesting approval of the purchase of our Kauai electric division by the Kauai Island Electric Co-op for \$270.0 million in cash including the assumption of certain liabilities. We are considering a variety of options, including the filing of a request for reconsideration of the decision or the filing of a new application. Our agreement for the sale of this division may be terminated if regulatory approval is not received before February 2002.

In Kauai, historically, we received approximately 13% of our power from a third-party provider. As of January 2001, this third-party provider will no longer provide power due to the closure of their sugar operations. In order to avoid power outages, we have completed negotiations with a new-third party provider for a new purchase power agreement. This agreement is subject to approval by the HPUC. Current forecasts report that Kauai will require

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

additional electrical generating capacity in 2002. As a result, we have entered into a 25-year purchase power agreement with Kauai Power Partners, an independent power producer, to provide firm power by July 2002. This agreement was recently approved by the HPUC.

### WATER AND WASTEWATER

Through subsidiaries, we provide water distribution, wholesale water transmission, wastewater treatment, public works consulting and marketing and billing services to approximately 322,200 primarily residential customers in, Arizona, Illinois, California, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana.

On October 18, 1999, we announced the agreement to sell our water and wastewater segment to American Water Works, Inc. for \$745.0 million in cash and \$90.0 million of assumed debt. This transaction is expected to close in the second half of 2001 following the receipt of regulatory approvals. However, our agreement for the sale of this business may be terminated if regulatory approval is not received before September 30, 2001.

### PROPERTIES

Our principal offices are located in leased premises in Stamford, Connecticut.

The operations support office for our ILEC segment is located in Plano, Texas. This facility, which we own, accommodates approximately 1,100 employees and has the acreage necessary for phased expansion up to 750,000 square feet. In addition, our ILEC segment leases and owns office space in various markets throughout the United States.

The operations support office for our CLEC segment is located in Vancouver, Washington. This building, which we own, is fully occupied. In addition, our CLEC segment leases local office space in various markets throughout the United States, and also maintains a warehouse facility in Portland, Oregon. Our CLEC segment also leases network hub and network equipment installation sites in various locations throughout the areas in which it provides services.

Our ILEC and CLEC services segments own telephone properties which include: connecting lines between customers' premises and the central offices; central office switching equipment; fiber-optic and microwave radio facilities, buildings and land; and customer premise equipment. The connecting lines, including aerial and underground cable, conduit, poles, wires and microwave equipment, are located on public streets and highways or on privately owned land. We have permission to use these lands pursuant to local governmental consent or lease, permit, franchise, easement or other agreement.

Our public utilities services segments are administered locally in the principal states in which they operate. Pending the sale of our public utilities services segments, we own:

- gas production, transmission and distribution facilities; electric generation, transmission and distribution facilities;
- water production, treatment, storage, transmission and distribution facilities; and
- wastewater treatment, transmission, collection and discharge facilities.

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

Citizens created the Trust as a statutory business trust under Delaware law. The Trust's business is defined in a trust agreement executed by Citizens, as depositor, and Chase Manhattan Bank USA, National Association, as the Delaware trustee. That trust agreement will be amended when the trust preferred securities are issued. The amended trust agreement will be in substantially the form filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, as an exhibit to the registration statement, of which the prospectus is a part. The amended trust agreement is called the "Trust Agreement" in this prospectus.

The Trust exists for the purposes of (1) issuing the trust preferred securities to the public, (2) issuing common securities of the Trust to Citizens and (3) using the proceeds from the issuance of the trust preferred securities and the common securities of the Trust to purchase junior subordinated notes of Citizens. The Trust may engage in only those other activities as are necessary, appropriate, convenient or incidental to those purposes. The preferred securities and the common securities of the Trust together are sometimes called the "Trust Securities" in this prospectus.

The securities trustees--the administrative trustees, the property trustee and the Delaware trustee--will conduct the Trust's business and affairs. Citizens, as the holder of the common securities of the Trust, will appoint the securities trustees. Two of Citizens' officers initially will serve as administrative trustees. The Chase Manhattan Bank will serve as property trustee. Chase Manhattan Bank USA, National Association will serve as Delaware trustee. Citizens, as the holder of all the common securities of the Trust, will have the right to appoint, remove or replace any of the securities trustees, subject to the right of the holders of a majority of the trust preferred securities to appoint a substitute property trustee and Delaware trustee if an event of default with respect to the junior subordinated notes occurs.

No separate financial statements of the Trust are included in this prospectus. Citizens believes that those statements would not be material to holders of the trust preferred securities because the Trust has no independent operations and the sole purpose of the Trust is investing the proceeds of the sale of its Trust Securities in the junior subordinated notes. Citizens does not expect that the Trust will be filing annual, quarterly or special reports with the SEC.

The Trust's office address in the State of Delaware is c/o Chase Manhattan Bank USA, National Association, 1201 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801. The principal place of business of the Trust will be c/o Citizens, 3 High Ridge Park, Stamford, Connecticut 06905. The Trust's telephone number is (203) 614-5600.

### ACCOUNTING TREATMENT

The Trust will be treated as a subsidiary of Citizens for financial reporting purposes. Accordingly, Citizens' consolidated financial statements will include the accounts of the Trust. The trust preferred securities, along with other trust preferred securities that Citizens guarantees on an equivalent basis, will be presented as a separate line item in Citizens' consolidated balance sheets, entitled "Guaranteed Preferred Beneficial Interests in Subordinated Notes of Citizens or Subsidiaries" or under a similar description. Citizens will record distributions that the Trust pays on the trust preferred securities as an expense in its consolidated statement of income.

25

### SELLING STOCKHOLDER

This prospectus also relates to approximately 9,139,900 shares, or the Resale Shares, of common stock of Citizens that may from time to time be sold by

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

the entity set forth below. An affiliate of Citibank, N.A. purchased shares of common stock in the public markets in connection with an equity repurchase transaction between Citibank, N.A. and us. The shares of common stock were subsequently transferred to Salomon Smith Barney Inc., the selling stockholder and an affiliate of Citibank, N.A.

The following table states the number of shares of our outstanding common stock that the selling stockholder owns and the number of shares of common stock that may be sold from the account of the selling stockholder in connection with the settlement of the equity repurchase transaction.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF STOCKHOLDER -----	NUMBER OF SHARES OWNED PRIOR TO THE OFFERING -----	NUMBER OF SHARES THAT MAY BE SOLD IN THE OFFERING -----	NUMBER OF SH OWNED AFTER OFFERING -----
Salomon Smith Barney Inc. 390 Greenwich Street New York, NY 10013  -----	9,909,066	9,139,900	769,166*

\* This assumes that all shares that may be sold in the offering by the selling stockholder are sold in the offering.

We will pay all expenses in connection with the registration of the Resale Shares, including brokerage commissions allocable to the sales of the Resale Shares and fees and disbursements of counsel and other representatives of the selling stockholder. We have also agreed to indemnify the selling stockholder and its affiliates for certain matters.

The selling stockholder and its affiliates have performed investment banking and advisory services for us from time to time for which they have received customary fees and expenses. The selling stockholder and its affiliates may, from time to time, engage in transactions with and perform services for us in the ordinary course of their business.

### DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The following is a summary of the general terms of the debt securities. We will file a prospectus supplement that may contain additional terms when we issue debt securities. The terms presented here, together with the terms in a related prospectus supplement, which could be different from the terms described below, will be a description of the material terms of the debt securities. You should also read the indenture governing the applicable class of our debt securities. We have filed two forms of indentures, one each for senior debt securities and for subordinated debt securities, with the SEC as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. All capitalized terms have the meanings specified in the indentures. The terms and provisions of the debt securities described below will most likely be modified by the documents that set forth the specific terms of the debt securities issued.

We may issue, from time to time, debt securities, in one or more series, that will consist of either our senior debt or our subordinated debt. Each series of debt securities we offer will be issued under an indenture between us and a trustee. Debt securities, whether senior or subordinated, may be issued as convertible debt securities or exchangeable debt securities. Unless otherwise

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

provided for in the applicable prospectus supplement, the indenture governing our subordinated debt securities will be substantially similar to the indenture governing our senior debt securities other than as to subordination terms.

### GENERAL TERMS OF THE INDENTURES

The indentures do not limit the amount of debt securities that we may issue. Each indenture provides that we may issue debt securities up to the principal amount that we may authorize and may be in any currency or currency unit that we may designate. The terms of the indentures do not contain any covenants or other provisions designed to give holders of any debt securities protection against changes in our operations, financial condition or transactions involving us, but these types of provisions may be included in the documents that set forth the specific terms of the debt securities. We may issue the debt securities issued under either indenture as "discount securities," which means they may be sold at a discount below their stated principal amount. These debt securities, as well as other debt securities that are not issued at a discount, may, for United States federal income tax purposes, be treated as if they were issued with "original issue discount" because of interest payment and other characteristics. Special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to debt securities issued with original issue discount will be described in more detail in any applicable prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement for a series of debt securities that we issue will describe, among other things, the following terms of the offered debt securities:

- the title;
  - any limit on the aggregate principal amount;
  - whether issued in fully registered form without coupons or in a form registered as to principal only with coupons or in bearer form with coupons;
  - whether issued in the form of one or more global securities and whether all or a portion of the principal amount of the debt securities is represented by a global security;
  - the price or prices at which the debt securities will be issued;
  - the date or dates on which principal is payable;
  - the place or places where and the manner in which principal, premium or interest will be payable and the place or places where the debt securities may be presented for transfer and, if applicable, conversion or exchange;
- 27
- interest rates, and the dates from which interest, if any, will accrue, and the dates when interest is payable and the maturity;
  - the right, if any, to extend the interest payment periods and the duration of the extensions;
  - our rights or obligations to redeem or purchase the debt securities;
  - any sinking fund provisions;
  - conversion or exchange provisions, if any, including conversion or exchange prices or rates and adjustments to conversion or exchange prices or rates;



## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

- the currency or currencies of payment of principal or interest;
- the terms applicable to any debt securities issued at a discount from their stated principal amount;
- the terms, if any, under which any debt securities will rank junior to any of our other debt;
- if the amount of payments of principal or interest is to be determined by reference to an index or formula, or based on a coin or currency other than that in which the debt securities are stated to be payable, the manner in which these amounts are determined and the calculation agent, if any, with respect thereto;
- if other than the entire principal amount of the debt securities when issued, the portion of the principal amount payable upon acceleration of maturity as a result of a default on our obligations;
- if applicable, covenants affording holders of debt protection against changes in our operations, financial condition or transactions involving us; and
- any other specific terms of any debt securities.

The applicable prospectus supplement will present United States federal income tax considerations for holders of any debt securities and the securities exchange or quotation system on which any debt securities are listed or quoted.

### SENIOR DEBT SECURITIES

Senior debt securities will be issued under the senior indenture. Payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on senior debt securities will rank on a parity with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt.

### SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES

#### GENERALLY

Subordinated debt securities will be issued under the subordinated indenture. Payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on subordinated debt securities will be subordinated and junior in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of our senior debt. We will state in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to any subordinated debt securities the subordination terms of the securities as well as the aggregate amount of outstanding indebtedness, as of the most recent practicable date, that by its terms would be senior to the subordinated debt securities. We will also state in the prospectus supplement limitations, if any, on issuance of additional senior indebtedness.

#### JUNIOR SUBORDINATED NOTES

In connection with the issuance of any trust preferred securities by the Trust, Citizens will issue to the Trust a series of junior subordinated notes. Citizens will also provide a guarantee of obligations of the Trust as described under "Description of the Guarantee". The junior subordinated notes are expected to rank subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of Citizens' indebtedness, which may

include other subordinated notes, unless that indebtedness is expressly

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

subordinated to or ranks on a parity with the junior subordinated notes. Specific terms of any junior subordinated notes issued in connection with the issuance of any trust preferred securities will be set forth in a prospectus supplement describing these issuances.

### CONVERSION OR EXCHANGE RIGHTS

Debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for shares of our equity securities or equity securities of our subsidiaries or affiliates. The terms and conditions of conversion or exchange will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms will include, among others, the following:

- the conversion or exchange price;
- the conversion or exchange period;
- provisions regarding the convertibility or exchangeability of the debt securities, including who may convert or exchange;
- events requiring adjustment to the conversion or exchange price;
- provisions affecting conversion or exchange in the event of our redemption of the debt securities; and
- any anti-dilution provisions, if applicable.

### EVENTS OF DEFAULT

Unless otherwise provided for in the applicable prospectus supplement, the term "Event of Default," when used in either indenture, unless otherwise indicated, means any of the following:

- failure to pay interest for 60 days after the date payment is due and payable; provided that if we extend an interest payment period in accordance with the terms of the debt securities, the extension will not be a failure to pay interest;
- failure to pay principal or premium, if any, on any debt security when due, either at maturity, upon any redemption, by declaration or otherwise;
- failure to make sinking fund payments when due;
- failure to perform other covenants for 90 days after notice that performance was required;
- events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of our company; or
- any other Event of Default provided in the applicable resolution of our Board or supplemental indenture under which we issue a series of debt securities.

An Event of Default for a particular series of debt securities does not necessarily constitute an Event of Default for any other series of debt securities issued under an indenture. If an Event of Default relating to the payment of interest, principal or any sinking fund installment involving any series of debt securities has occurred and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of each affected series may declare the entire principal of all the debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately.

If an Event of Default relating to the performance of other covenants occurs and is continuing for a period of 60 days after notice of that event, or if any

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

other Event of Default occurs and is continuing involving all of the series of senior debt securities, then the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of all of the series of senior debt securities may declare the entire principal amount of all of the series of senior debt securities due and payable immediately.

Similarly, if an Event of Default relating to the performance of other covenants occurs and is continuing for a period of 60 days after notice of that event, or if any other Event of Default occurs and is continuing involving all of the series of subordinated securities, then the trustee or the holders of

29

not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of all of the series of subordinated securities may declare the entire principal amount of all of the series of subordinated securities due and payable immediately.

If, however, the Event of Default relating to the performance of other covenants or any other Event of Default that has occurred and is continuing is for less than all of the series of senior debt securities or subordinated securities, as the case may be, then, the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of each affected series of the senior debt securities or the subordinated securities, as the case may be, may declare the entire principal amount of all debt securities of the affected series due and payable immediately. The holders of not less than a majority, or any applicable supermajority, in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of a series may, after satisfying conditions, rescind and annul any of the above-described declarations and consequences involving the series.

If an Event of Default relating to events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of our company occurs and is continuing, then the principal amount of all of the debt securities outstanding, and any accrued interest, will automatically become due and payable immediately, without any declaration or other act by the trustee or any holder.

The indentures impose limitations on suits brought by holders of debt securities against us. Except for actions for payment of overdue principal or interest, no holder of debt securities of any series may institute any action against us under the relevant indenture unless:

- the holder has previously given to the trustee written notice of default and continuance of such default;
- the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the affected series have requested that the trustee institute the action;
- the requesting holders have offered the trustee reasonable indemnity for expenses and liabilities that may be incurred by bringing the action;
- the trustee has not instituted the action within 60 days of the request; and
- the trustee has not received inconsistent direction by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the series.

We will be required to file annually with each trustee a certificate, signed by an officer of our company, stating whether or not the officer knows of any default by us in the performance, observance or fulfillment of any condition or covenant of the relevant indenture.

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

### REGISTERED GLOBAL SECURITIES

We may issue the debt securities of a series in whole or in part in the form of one or more fully registered global securities. We will deposit any registered global securities with a depositary or with a nominee for a depositary identified in the applicable prospectus supplement and registered in the name of the depositary or nominee. In that case, we will issue one or more registered global securities denominated in an amount equal to the aggregate principal amount of all of the debt securities of the series to be issued and represented by the registered global security or securities.

Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for debt securities in definitive registered form, a registered global security may not be transferred except as a whole:

- by the depositary for such registered global security to its nominee;
- by a nominee of the depositary to the depositary or another nominee of the depositary; or
- by the depositary or its nominee to a successor of the depositary or a nominee of the successor.

30

The prospectus supplement relating to a series of debt securities will describe the specific terms of the depositary arrangement involving any portion of the series represented by a registered global security.

We anticipate that the following provisions will apply to all depositary arrangements for debt securities:

- ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global security will be limited to persons that have accounts with the depositary for such registered global security, these persons being referred to as "participants," or persons that may hold interests through participants;
- upon the issuance of a registered global security, the depositary for the registered global security will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the participants' accounts with the respective principal amounts of the debt securities represented by the registered global security beneficially owned by the participants;
- any dealers, underwriters, or agents participating in the distribution of the debt securities will designate the accounts to be credited; and
- ownership of beneficial interest in such registered global security will be shown on, and the transfer of such ownership interest will be effected only through, records maintained by the depositary for such registered global security for interests of participants, and on the records of participants for interests of persons holding through participants.

The laws of some states may require that specified purchasers of securities take physical delivery of the securities in definitive form. These laws may limit the ability of those persons to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in registered global securities.

So long as the depositary for a registered global security, or its nominee, is the registered owner of the registered global security, the depositary or nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the debt securities represented by the registered global security for all purposes under the relevant indenture. Except as stated below, owners of beneficial

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

interests in a registered global security:

- will not be entitled to have the debt securities represented by a registered global security registered in their names;
- will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of the debt securities in the definitive form; and
- will not be considered the owners or holders of the debt securities under the relevant indenture.

Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a registered global security must rely on the procedures of the depository for the registered global security and, if the person is not a participant, on the procedures of a participant through which the person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the relevant indenture.

We understand that under existing industry practices, if we request any action of holders or if an owner of a beneficial interest in a registered global security desires to give or take any action that a holder is entitled to give or take under the relevant indenture, the depository for the registered global security would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take the action, and the participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through the participants to give or take the action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners holding through them.

We will make payments of principal and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on debt securities represented by a registered global security registered in the name of a depository or its nominee to the depository or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owners of the registered global security. None of our company, the trustee or any other agent of our company or the trustee will be responsible or liable for any aspect of the records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial

31

ownership interests in the registered global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to the beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depository for any debt securities represented by a registered global security, upon receipt of any payments of principal and premium, if any, and interest, if any, in respect of the registered global security, will immediately credit participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the registered global security as shown on the records of the depository. We also expect that standing customer instructions and customary practices will govern payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in the registered global security held through the participants, as is now the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name." We also expect that any of these payments will be the responsibility of the participants.

If the depository for any debt securities represented by a registered global security is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository or stops being a clearing agency registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, we will appoint an eligible successor depository. If we fail to appoint an eligible successor depository within 90 days, we will issue the debt securities in definitive form in exchange for the registered global security. In addition, we may at any time and in our sole discretion decide not to have any of the debt securities of a series represented by one or more registered global securities.

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

In that event, we will issue debt securities of the series in a definitive form in exchange for all of the registered global securities representing the debt securities. The trustee will register any debt securities issued in definitive form in exchange for a registered global security in the name or names as the depositary, based upon instructions from its participants, shall instruct the trustee.

We may also issue bearer debt securities of a series in the form of one or more global securities, referred to as "bearer global securities." We will deposit these securities with a common depositary for Euroclear System and Clearstream Banking, or with a nominee for the depositary identified in the prospectus supplement relating to the series. The prospectus supplement relating to a series of debt securities represented by a bearer global security will describe the applicable terms and procedures. These will include the specific terms of the depositary arrangement and any specific procedures for the issuance of debt securities in definitive form in exchange for a bearer global security, in proportion to the series represented by a bearer global security.

### DISCHARGE, DEFEASANCE AND COVENANT DEFEASANCE

We can discharge or defease our obligations under either indenture or both indentures as stated below or as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may discharge obligations to holders of any series of debt securities that have not already been delivered to the relevant trustee for cancellation and that have either become due and payable or are by their terms to become due and payable, or are scheduled for redemption, within one year. We may effect a discharge by irrevocably depositing with the trustee cash or United States government obligations, as trust funds, in an amount certified to be enough to pay when due, whether at maturity, upon redemption or otherwise, the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities and any mandatory sinking fund payments.

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may also discharge any and all of our obligations to holders of any series of debt securities at any time, referred to as "defeasance." We may also be released from the obligations imposed by any covenants of any outstanding series of debt securities and provisions of the relevant indenture, and we may omit to comply with those covenants without creating an event of default under the relevant indenture, referred

32

to as "covenant defeasance." We may effect defeasance and covenant defeasance only if, among other things:

- we irrevocably deposit with the trustee cash or United States government obligations, as trust funds, in an amount certified to be enough to pay at maturity, or upon redemption, the principal, premium, if any, and interest on all outstanding debt securities of the series;
- we deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel from a nationally recognized law firm to the effect that (i) in the case of covenant defeasance, the holders of the series of debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance, and will be subject to tax in the same manner and at the same times as if no covenant defeasance had occurred and (ii) in the case of defeasance, either we have received from, or there has been published by, the Internal Revenue Service a ruling or there has been a change in applicable United States federal income tax

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

law, and based thereon, the holders of the series of debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance, and will be subject to tax in the same manner as if no defeasance had occurred; and

- in the case of subordinated debt securities, no event or condition shall exist that, based on the subordination provisions applicable to the series, would prevent us from making payments of principal of, premium, if any, and interest on any of the applicable subordinated debt securities at the date of the irrevocable deposit referred to above or at any time during the period ending on the 91st day after the deposit date.

Although we may discharge or decrease our obligations under an indenture as described in the two preceding paragraphs, we may not avoid, among other things, our duty to register the transfer or exchange of any series of debt securities, to replace any temporary, mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen series of debt securities or to maintain an office or agency in respect of any series of debt securities.

### MODIFICATION OF THE INDENTURES

Except as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, each indenture provides that we and the trustee may enter into supplemental indentures without the consent of the holders of debt securities to:

- secure any debt securities;
- evidence the assumption by a successor corporation of our obligations;
- add covenants for the protection of the holders of debt securities;
- cure any ambiguity or correct any inconsistency in the relevant indenture;
- establish the forms or terms of debt securities of any series; and
- evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment by a successor trustee.

The indentures also provide that we and the trustee may, with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of debt securities of all series of senior debt securities or of subordinated securities, as the case may be, then outstanding and affected, voting as one class, add any provisions to, or change in any manner, eliminate or modify in any way the provisions of, the relevant indenture or modify in any manner the rights of the holders of the debt securities. We and the trustee may not, however, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security affected thereby:

- extend the final maturity of any debt security;
- reduce the principal amount or premium, if any;
- reduce the rate or extend the time of payment of interest;
- reduce any amount payable on redemption;

33

- change the currency in which the principal, unless otherwise provided for a series, premium, if any, or interest is payable;
- reduce the amount of the principal of any debt security issued with an

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

original issue discount that is payable upon acceleration or provable in bankruptcy;

- impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on any debt security when due; or
- reduce the percentage of holders of debt securities of any series whose consent is required for any modification of the relevant indenture.

### CONCERNING THE TRUSTEE

The indentures provide that there may be more than one trustee under each indenture, each for one or more series of debt securities. If there are different trustees for different series of debt securities under an indenture, each trustee will be a trustee under the relevant indenture separate and apart from the trust administered by any other trustee under the same indenture or any other indenture. Except as otherwise indicated in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement, any action permitted to be taken by a trustee may be taken by that trustee only on the one or more series of debt securities for which it is the trustee under the relevant indenture. Any trustee under the relevant indenture may resign or be removed from one or more series of debt securities. All payments of principal of, premium, if any, and interest on, and all registration, transfer, exchange, authentication and delivery of, the debt securities of a series will be effected by the relevant trustee for such series at an office designated by such trustee in New York, New York.

If any trustee becomes a creditor of our company, each indenture places limitations on the right of the trustee to obtain payment of claims or to realize on property received in respect of any such claim as security otherwise. Any trustee may engage in other transactions. If it acquires any conflicting interest relating to any duties concerning the debt securities, however, it must eliminate the conflict or resign as trustee.

The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of any series of debt securities then outstanding will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for exercising any remedy available to the relevant trustee concerning the applicable series of debt securities, provided that the direction:

- would not conflict with any rule of law or with the relevant indenture;
- would not be unduly prejudicial to the rights of another holder of the debt securities; and
- would not involve any trustee in personal liability.

The indentures provide that in case an Event of Default shall occur, not be cured and be known to any trustee, the relevant trustee must use the same degree of care as a prudent person would use in the conduct of his or her own affairs in the exercise of the trustee's power. No trustee will be under any obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under an indenture at the request of any of the holders of the debt securities, unless the holders shall have offered to the trustee security and indemnity satisfactory to that trustee.

### NO INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY OF INCORPORATORS, SHAREHOLDERS, OFFICERS OR DIRECTORS

The indentures provide that no incorporator and no past, present or future shareholder, officer or director of our company or any successor corporation in their capacity as such shall have any individual liability for any of our obligations, covenants or agreements under the debt securities or the relevant indenture.



## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

### GOVERNING LAW

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

34

### DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

Our authorized capital stock consists of 600,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$.25 per share, and 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share. As of March 31, 2001, there were 266,485,914 shares of common stock outstanding, and no shares of preferred stock outstanding.

### COMMON STOCK

#### VOTING RIGHTS

The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share and are entitled to vote upon all matters that come before the stockholders, including the election of directors.

Only those holders of our common stock that, as of any relevant date, would be entitled to elect a director at the next annual meeting of stockholders, may remove a director. Our directors may be removed, with or without cause. Vacancies in a directorship may be filled by:

- the majority of directors then in office, except in vacancies resulting from the removal of directors by stockholders; or
- the vote of the holders of the common stock, as of the date such vacancy is filled, entitled to elect such director at the next annual meeting of stockholders.

### DIVIDENDS

Holders of common stock are entitled to receive dividends at the same rate if, as and when such dividends are declared by our board out of assets legally available therefor after payment of dividends required to be paid on shares of outstanding preferred stock. We may not make any dividend or distribution to any holder of common stock unless simultaneously with the dividend or distribution we make the same dividend or distribution with respect to each outstanding share of common stock.

### LIQUIDATION

In the event of our liquidation, after payment of our debts and other liabilities and after making provision for the holders of preferred stock, if any, our remaining assets will be distributable ratably among the holders of common stock.

### OTHER PROVISIONS

The holders of our common stock are not entitled to preemptive rights. All outstanding shares of common stock are, and all shares of common stock offered hereby when issued will be upon payment therefor, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

### PREFERRED STOCK

Our board of directors has the authority, without any further action by our stockholders to issue from time to time shares of preferred stock in one or more

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

series and to fix the designations, preferences, rights, qualifications, limitations and restrictions thereof, including voting rights, dividend rights, dividend rates, conversion rights, terms of redemption, redemption prices, liquidation preferences and the number of shares constituting any series. The issuance of preferred stock with voting rights could have an adverse effect on the voting power of holders of common stock by increasing the number of outstanding shares having voting rights. In addition, if our board of directors authorizes preferred stock with conversion rights, the number of shares of common stock outstanding could potentially be increased up to the authorized amount. The issuance of preferred stock could decrease the amount of earnings and assets available for distribution to holders of common stock. Any such issuance could also have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a change in control of us and may adversely affect the rights of holders of our common stock.

35

### GENERAL

#### CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION AND BY-LAWS

Stockholders' rights and related matters are governed by the Delaware General Corporation Law and our certificate of incorporation and by-laws. The terms of our restated certificate of incorporation and our by-laws are more detailed than the general information provided in connection with the description of our capital stock or otherwise in this prospectus. Therefore, you should carefully consider the actual provisions of these documents.

#### LIMITATION OF DIRECTORS' LIABILITY

Our certificate of incorporation provides that none of our directors will be personally liable to us or our stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director except for liability:

- for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to us or our stockholders;
- for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
- under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law; or
- for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

The effect of these provisions will be to eliminate our rights and our stockholders' rights, through stockholders' derivatives suits on our behalf, to recover monetary damages against a director for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, including breaches resulting from grossly negligent behavior, except in the situations described above. These provisions will not limit the liability of directors under federal securities laws and will not affect the availability of equitable remedies such as an injunction or rescission based upon a director's breach of his or her duty of care.

#### TRANSFER AGENT

The Transfer Agent and Registrar for our common stock is the Illinois Stock Transfer Company.

36

#### DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

We may issue warrants for the purchase of debt securities, preferred stock or common stock. Warrants may be issued independently or together with debt securities, preferred stock or common stock offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from any such offered securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants. The following summary of selected provisions of the warrants does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, the provisions of the warrant agreement that will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering of such warrants.

### DEBT WARRANTS

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular issue of debt warrants will describe the terms of the debt warrants, including the following:

- the title of the debt warrants;
- the offering price for the debt warrants, if any;
- the aggregate number of the debt warrants;
- the designation and terms of the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of the debt warrants;
- if applicable, the designation and terms of the debt securities with which the debt warrants are issued and the number of debt warrants issued with each debt security;
- if applicable, the date from and after which the debt warrants and any debt securities issued therewith will be separately transferable;
- the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of a debt warrant and the price at which the principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon exercise, which price may be payable in cash, securities, or other property;
- the date on which the right to exercise the debt warrants shall commence and the date on which the right shall expire;
- if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the debt warrants that may be exercised at any one time;
- whether the debt warrants represented by the debt warrant certificates or debt securities that may be issued upon exercise of the debt warrants will be issued in registered or bearer form;
- information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;
- the currency or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and the exercise price are payable;
- if applicable, a discussion of material United States federal income tax considerations;
- the antidilution provisions of the debt warrants, if any;
- the redemption or call provisions, if any, applicable to the debt warrants; and

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

- any additional terms of the debt warrants, including terms, procedures, and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the debt warrants.

37

### STOCK WARRANTS

The prospectus supplement relating to any particular issue of preferred stock warrants or common stock warrants will describe the terms of the warrants, including the following:

- the title of the warrants;
- the offering price for the warrants, if any;
- the aggregate number of the warrants;
- the designation and terms of the common stock or preferred stock purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;
- if applicable, the designation and terms of the offered securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of the warrants issued with each offered security;
- if applicable, the date from and after which the warrants and any offered securities issued with them will be separately transferable;
- the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock purchasable upon exercise of a warrant and the price at which the shares may be purchased upon exercise;
- the date on which the right to exercise the warrants shall commence and the date on which the right shall expire;
- if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the warrants that may be exercised at any one time;
- the currency or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and the exercise price are payable;
- if applicable, a discussion of material United States federal income tax considerations;
- the antidilution provisions of the warrants, if any;
- the redemption or call provisions, if any, applicable to the warrants; and
- any additional terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

38

### DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

The following information outlines some of the provisions of the deposit agreement, the depositary shares and the depositary receipts. This information may not be complete in all respects and is qualified entirely by reference to the relevant deposit agreement and depositary receipts with respect to the depositary shares relating to any particular series of preferred stock. The specific terms of any series of depositary shares will be described in the

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

relevant prospectus supplement. If so described in the prospectus supplement, the terms of that series of depositary shares may differ and supersede some or all of the terms presented below.

### GENERAL

We may elect to offer fractional interests in shares of preferred stock instead of whole shares of preferred stock. If so, we will allow a depositary to issue depositary shares to the public, each of which will represent a fractional interest in a share of the relevant series of preferred stock, as described in the relevant prospectus supplement, of a share of preferred stock.

The shares of the preferred stock underlying any depositary shares will be deposited under a separate deposit agreement between us and a bank or trust company acting as depositary with respect to that series. The depositary will have its principal office in the United States and have a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000. The relevant prospectus supplement relating to a series of depositary shares will mention the name and address of the depositary. Under the relevant deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to its fractional interest in a share of the preferred stock underlying that depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of that preferred stock, including dividend, voting, redemption, conversion, exchange and liquidation rights.

Depositary shares will be evidenced by one or more depositary receipts issued under the relevant deposit agreement.

Pending the preparation of definitive engraved depositary receipts, a depositary may, upon our order, issue temporary depositary receipts substantially identical to and entitling their holders to all the rights pertaining to the definitive depositary receipts, but not in definitive form.

Definitive depositary receipts will be prepared without unreasonable delay and the temporary depositary receipts will be exchangeable for definitive depositary receipts at our expense.

### DIVIDENDS AND OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions in respect of the preferred stock to the record depositary shareholders based on the number of the depositary shares owned by that holder on the relevant record date. The depositary will distribute only that amount which can be distributed without attributing to any depositary shareholders a fraction of one cent, and any balance not so distributed will be added to and treated as part of the next sum received by the depositary for distribution to the depositary shareholders of record.

If there is a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property to the depositary shareholders of record on a pro rata basis, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make that distribution. In that case, the depositary may, with our consultation, adopt a method it deems equitable and practicable for making that distribution, including any sale of property and the distribution of the net proceeds from that sale to the concerned holders.

Each deposit agreement will also contain provisions relating to the manner in which any subscription or similar rights we offer to preferred stockholders of the relevant series will be made available to depositary shareholders.

### WITHDRAWAL OF STOCK

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

Upon surrender of depositary receipts at the depositary's office, the holder of the relevant depositary shares will be entitled to the number of whole shares of the related series of preferred stock and any money or other property those depositary shares represent. Depositary shareholders will be entitled to receive whole shares of the related preferred stock series on the basis described in the relevant prospectus supplement, but holders of those whole preferred stock shares will not afterward be entitled to receive depositary shares in exchange for their shares. If the depositary receipts the holder delivers evidence a depositary share number exceeding the whole share number of the related preferred stock series to be withdrawn, the depositary will deliver to that holder a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess depositary share number.

### REDEMPTION; LIQUIDATION

The terms on which the depositary shares relating to the preferred stock of any series may be redeemed and any amounts distributable upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, will be described in the relevant prospectus supplement.

### CONVERSION

The depositary shares, as such, are not convertible or exchangeable into our common stock or any of our other securities or property. Nevertheless, the prospectus supplement relating to an offering of depositary shares may provide that the holders of depositary receipts may surrender their depositary receipts to the depositary with written instructions to the depositary to instruct us to cause the conversion or exchange of the preferred stock represented by these depositary shares.

### VOTING

Upon receiving notice of any meeting at which preferred stockholders of any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail the information contained in that notice to the depositary shareholders of record relating to that series of preferred stock. Each depositary shareholder on the record date will be entitled to instruct the depositary on how to vote the shares of preferred stock underlying that holder's depositary shares. The depositary will vote the preferred stock shares underlying those depositary shares according to those instructions, and we will take actions we deem necessary to enable the depositary to do so. If the depositary does not receive specific instructions from the depositary shareholders relating to that series of preferred stock, it will abstain from voting those preferred stock shares, unless otherwise mentioned in the relevant prospectus supplement.

### AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION OF DEPOSIT AGREEMENT

The depositary receipt form evidencing the depositary shares and the relevant deposit agreement may be amended by us and the depositary. However, any amendment that significantly affects the rights of the depositary shareholders will not be effective unless a majority of the outstanding depositary shareholders approve that amendment. We or the depositary may terminate a deposit agreement only if:

- we have redeemed or reacquired all outstanding depositary shares relating to the deposit agreement;
- all preferred stock of the relevant series has been withdrawn;
- there has been a final distribution in respect of the relevant series of preferred stock in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

up and that distribution has been made to the relevant depository shareholders;

40

- all outstanding depository shares have been converted into or exchanged for other securities; or
- upon determination by Citizens to terminate the deposit agreement.

### CHARGES OF DEPOSITARY

We will pay all charges of each depository in connection with the initial deposit and any redemption of the preferred stock. Depository shareholders will be required to pay any other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and any other charges expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for their accounts.

Each depository will forward to the relevant depository shareholders all reports and communications that we are required to furnish to our preferred stockholders.

Neither any depository nor Citizens will be liable if it is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond its control in performing its obligations under any deposit agreement. The obligations of each depository under any deposit agreement will be limited to performance in good faith of their duties under that agreement, and they will not be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depository shares or preferred stock unless they are provided with satisfactory indemnity. They may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or information provided by persons presenting preferred stock for deposit, depository shareholders or other persons believed to be competent, and on documents believed to be genuine.

### TITLE

We, each depository and any of their agents may treat the registered owner of any depository share as the absolute owner of that share, whether or not any payment for that depository share is overdue and despite any notice to the contrary, for any purpose.

### RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL OF DEPOSITARY

A depository may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to resign, and we may remove a depository, and resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor depository and its acceptance of appointment.

41

### DESCRIPTION OF TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES

The following description of the trust preferred securities is only a summary and is not intended to be comprehensive.

### GENERAL

The Trust Agreement authorizes the administrative trustees to issue the trust preferred securities and the trust common securities on behalf of the Trust. For additional information you should refer to the Trust Agreement. The form of the Trust Agreement is filed with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement, of which this prospectus is a part.

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

The prospectus supplement describing the trust preferred securities will disclose the specific terms related to the offering, including the price or prices at which the trust preferred securities to be offered will be issued. Those terms will include some or all of the following:

- the number of trust preferred securities;
- the yearly distribution rate, or the method of determining that rate, and the date or dates on which distributions will be payable;
- the date or dates, or method of determining the date or dates, from which distributions will be cumulative;
- the amount that will be paid out of the assets of the Trust to the holders of the trust preferred securities upon the voluntary or involuntary dissolution, winding-up or termination of the Trust;
- any obligation that the Trust has to purchase or redeem the trust preferred securities and the price at which, the period within which, and the terms and conditions upon which the Trust will purchase or redeem them;
- any voting rights of the trust preferred securities that are in addition to those legally required, including any right that the holders of the trust preferred securities have to approve certain actions under or amendments to the trust agreement;
- any right that the Trust has to defer distributions on the trust preferred securities in the event that Citizens extends the interest payment period on the junior subordinated notes;
- any other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations or restrictions upon the trust preferred securities; and
- Citizens will guarantee the trust preferred securities to the extent described below under the caption "Description of the Guarantee."

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe any material United States federal income tax considerations that apply to the trust preferred securities.

42

### DESCRIPTION OF GUARANTEE

In connection with the issuance of trust preferred securities by the Trust and junior subordinated notes to the Trust by Citizens, Citizens will execute the guarantee for the benefit of the holders of the preferred securities of the Trust. The Chase Manhattan Bank will act as guarantee trustee. The guarantee trustee will hold the guarantee for the benefit of the holders of the trust preferred securities.

The following description of the guarantee is only a summary and is not intended to be comprehensive. The form of guarantee is filed with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement, of which this prospectus is a part.

#### GENERAL

Citizens will irrevocably and unconditionally agree under the guarantee to pay in full the guarantee payments that are defined below, to the extent specified in the guarantee, to the holders of the trust preferred securities, to the extent that the guarantee payments are not paid by or on behalf of the Trust. Citizens is required to pay the guarantee payments to the extent



## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

specified in the guarantee regardless of any defense, right of set-off or counterclaim that Citizens may have or may assert against any person.

The following payments and distributions on the trust preferred securities of the Trust are guarantee payments:

- any acquired and unpaid distributions required to be paid on the trust preferred securities of the Trust, but only to the extent that the Trust has funds legally and immediately available for those distributions;
- the redemption price for any trust preferred securities that the Trust calls for redemption, including all accrued and unpaid distributions to the redemption date, but only to the extent that the Trust has funds legally and immediately available for the payment; and
- upon a dissolution, winding-up or termination of the Trust, other than in connection with the distribution of junior subordinated notes to the holders of trust preferred securities or the redemption of all the trust preferred securities, the lesser of:
  - the sum of the liquidation amount and all accrued and unpaid distributions on the trust preferred securities of the Trust to the payment date, to the extent that the Trust has funds legally and immediately available for the payment; and
  - the amount of assets of the Trust remaining available for distribution to holders of the trust preferred securities of the Trust in liquidation of the Trust.

Citizens may satisfy its obligation to make a guarantee payment by making that payment directly to the holders of the trust preferred securities or by causing the Trust to make the payment to those holders.

The guarantee will be a full and unconditional guarantee, subject to certain subordination provisions, of the guarantee payments with respect to the trust preferred securities from the time of issuance of the trust preferred securities, except that the guarantee will only apply to the payment of distributions and other payments on the trust preferred securities when the Trust has sufficient funds legally and immediately available to make those distributions or other payments.

If Citizens does not make the required payments on the junior subordinated notes held by the Trust, the Trust will not make the payments on the trust preferred securities.

43

### SUBORDINATION

Citizens' obligations under the guarantee will be unsecured obligations of Citizens. Those obligations will rank:

- subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of Citizens' other liabilities, other than obligations or liabilities that rank equal in priority or subordinate by their terms;
- equal in priority with Citizens' preferred stock and similar guarantees, and
- senior to Citizens' common stock.

The guarantee will be a guarantee of payment and not of collection. This

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

means that the guaranteed party may institute a legal proceeding directly against Citizens, as guarantor, to enforce its rights under the guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against any other person or entity.

The terms of the trust preferred securities are expected to provide that each holder of the trust preferred securities, by accepting the trust preferred securities, agrees to the subordination provisions and other terms of the guarantee.

### AMENDMENTS

Citizens may amend the guarantee without the consent of any holder of the trust preferred securities if the amendment does not materially and adversely affect the rights of those holders. Citizens may otherwise amend the guarantee with the approval of 66 2/3% of the outstanding trust preferred securities.

### TERMINATION

The guarantee will terminate and be of no further effect when:

- the redemption price of the trust preferred securities is fully paid;
- Citizens distributes the junior subordinated notes to the holders of the trust preferred securities; or
- the amounts payable upon liquidation of the Trust are fully paid.

The guarantee will remain in effect or will be reinstated if at any time any holder the trust preferred securities must restore payment of any sums paid to that holder with respect to the trust preferred securities or under the guarantee.

### EVENTS OF DEFAULT

An event of default will occur under the guarantee if Citizens fails to perform any of its payment obligations under the guarantee. The holders of a majority of the trust preferred securities may waive any such event of default and its consequences on behalf of all of the holders of the trust preferred securities. The guarantee trustee is obligated to enforce the guarantee for the benefit of the holders of the trust preferred securities if an event of default occurs under the guarantee.

The holders of a majority of the trust preferred securities of the guarantee have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the guarantee trustee with respect to the guarantee or to direct the exercise of any trust or power that the guarantee trustee holds under the guarantee. Any holder of the trust preferred securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against Citizens to enforce that holder's rights under the guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against the guarantee trustee or any other person or entity.

### THE GUARANTEE TRUSTEE

The Chase Manhattan Bank is the guarantee trustee. It is also the property trustee, the subordinated indenture trustee, and the senior indenture trustee. Citizens and certain of its affiliates maintain deposit accounts and banking relationships with The Chase Manhattan Bank. The Chase Manhattan Bank also serves as trustee or agent under other indentures and agreements pursuant to which securities of Citizens and certain of its affiliates are outstanding.

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

The guarantee trustee will perform only those duties that are specifically set forth in each guarantee unless an event of default under the guarantee occurs and is continuing. If an event of default occurs and is continuing, the guarantee trustee will exercise the same degree of care as a prudent individual would exercise in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to these provisions, the guarantee trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of its powers under the guarantee at the request of any holder of the trust preferred securities unless that holder offers reasonable indemnity to the guarantee trustee against the costs, expenses and liabilities which it might incur as a result.

### AGREEMENT AS TO EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES

Citizens will enter into an Agreement as to Expenses and Liabilities under the Trust Agreement. The Agreement as to Expenses and Liabilities will provide that Citizens will, with certain exceptions, irrevocably and unconditionally guarantee the full payment of any indebtedness, expenses or liabilities of the Trust to each person or entity to whom the Trust becomes indebted or liable. The exceptions are the obligations of the Trust to pay the holders of the trust preferred securities or other similar interests in the Trust the amounts due to the holders under the terms of the trust preferred securities or those similar interests.

45

### PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell securities directly to purchasers, through agents, to dealers, to underwriters or in any combination of these ways. Agents or dealers may be deemed to be "underwriters" within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 and any discounts or commissions received by them from us and any profit on the resale of securities by them may be considered underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act of 1933. Any underwriter or agent will be identified, and any compensation received from us will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to those securities.

We may directly solicit offers to purchase securities or designate agents to do so. Any agent will be named, and any commissions payable by us to such agent, or the method by which commissions can be determined, will be described, in the applicable prospectus supplement. If we use underwriters or dealers in a sale, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters or dealers for their own account. The underwriters or dealers may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The securities may be offered to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more of such firms. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase all the securities of the series offered will be subject to customary conditions and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the securities of the series offered if any are purchased. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

We may authorize underwriters, dealers and agents to solicit offers by institutional investors to purchase offered securities under contracts providing for payment and delivery on a future date specified in the prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will also describe the public offering price for the securities and the commission payable for solicitation of these delayed delivery contracts. Delayed delivery contracts will contain definite fixed price and quantity terms. The obligations of a purchaser under these delayed delivery contracts will be subject to only two conditions:

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

- that the institution's purchase of the securities at the time of delivery of the securities is not prohibited under the law of any jurisdiction to which the institution is subject; and
- that we shall have sold to the underwriters the total principal amount of the offered securities, less the principal amount covered by the delayed delivery contracts.

We may have agreements with agents, dealers and underwriters to indemnify them against specified liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, or to contribute to payments they may be required to make in respect of these liabilities. Agents, dealers or underwriters may engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

This prospectus also relates to the offer and sale from time to time by the selling stockholder identified in the section entitled "Selling Stockholder" and its respective pledgees, donees and other successors in interest of up to approximately 9,139,900 shares of Citizens common stock in the aggregate. We refer to such shares as the Resale Shares. The Resale Shares may be sold from time to time by the selling stockholder. Such sales may be made in underwritten offerings or in open market or block transactions or otherwise on any national securities exchange or automated interdealer quotation system on which shares of Citizens common stock are then listed, including the New York Stock Exchange, in the over-the-counter market, in private transactions or otherwise at prices related to prevailing market prices at the time of the sale or at negotiated prices. Some or all of the Resale Shares may be sold through brokers acting on behalf of the selling stockholder or to dealers for resale by such dealers. In connection with such sales, such brokers and dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts or commissions from the selling stockholder and may receive commissions from the purchasers of such Resale Shares for whom they act as broker or agent, which discounts and commissions are not anticipated to exceed those customary in the types of transactions involved. The selling stockholder may offer to sell and may sell shares of our common stock in options transactions or deliver such shares to cover short sales "against the box." If necessary, a supplemental or amended

46

prospectus will describe the method of sale in greater detail. In effecting sales, brokers or dealers engaged by the selling stockholder and/or purchasers of the Resale Shares may arrange for other brokers or dealers to participate. In addition, any of the Resale Shares covered by this prospectus that qualify for sale pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act of 1933 may be sold under Rule 144 rather than pursuant to this prospectus.

If the Resale Shares are sold in an underwritten offering, the Resale Shares will be acquired by the underwriters for their own accounts and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or prices at the time of the sale or at negotiated prices. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or commissions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time. Underwriters may sell Resale Shares to or through brokers or dealers, and such brokers and dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, commissions or commissions from the underwriters and may receive commissions from the purchasers of the Resale Shares for whom they act as broker or agent, which discounts and commissions are not anticipated to exceed those customary in the types of transactions involved.

Citizens has agreed to pay all expenses in connection with the registration of the Resale Shares, including brokerage commissions allocable to the sale of the Resale Shares and fees and disbursements of counsel and other representatives of the selling stockholder.

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

The number of Resale Shares that may be actually sold by the selling stockholder will be determined by the selling stockholder, and may depend upon a number of factors, including, among other things, the market price of our common stock. Because the selling stockholder may offer all, some or none of the Resale Shares, and because the offering contemplated by this prospectus is currently not being underwritten, no estimate can be given as to the number of Resale Shares that will be held by the selling stockholder upon or prior to termination of this offering. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the selling stockholder will sell any or all of the Resale Shares.

47

### WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and, in accordance therewith, file reports and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room at Room 1024, Judiciary Plaza, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549, and at its regional offices located at 500 West Madison Street, 14th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60661 and 7 World Trade Center, Suite 1300, New York, New York 10048. Copies of such material can also be obtained by mail from the Public Reference Section of the Commission, at Room 1024, Judiciary Plaza, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549, at the prescribed rates. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for more information on their public reference rooms and their copy charges, as well as the SEC's Public Reference Section's charges for mailing copies of the documents we have filed. The SEC maintains a website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information on a delayed basis regarding registrants, including us, that file electronically with the SEC.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and any reports, proxy and information statements and other information we file with the SEC may also be inspected and copied at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., located at 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

### INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

Some of the information that you may want to consider in deciding whether to invest in any of our securities is not included in this prospectus, but rather is incorporated by reference to specific reports that we have filed with the SEC. This allows us to disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents rather than repeating them in full in this prospectus. The information incorporated by reference in this prospectus contains important business and financial information. In addition, information that we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus automatically updates and supersedes the information contained in this prospectus and incorporated filings. We have previously filed the following documents with the SEC (File No. 001-11001) and are incorporating them by reference into this prospectus:

- Annual Report on Form 10-K of Citizens Communications Company for the year ended December 31, 2000 and filed with the SEC on March 9, 2001;
- Current Report on Form 8-K of Citizens Communications Company filed with the SEC on May 7, 2001, including the audited financial statements of the selected US WEST exchanges and the Frontier ILEC businesses as of December 31, 2000 and 1999 for each of the years in the three year period ended December 31, 2000 and pro forma financial information;
- Current Report on Form 8-K of Citizens Communications Company filed with the SEC on April 27, 2001 including our press release announcing the approval by the New York Public Service Commission of the purchase of

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

Global Crossing Ltd.'s local exchange carrier business (the Frontier ILEC businesses);

- Current Report on Form 8-K of Citizens Communications Company filed with the SEC on April 25, 2001, including our press release announcing the approval by the Louisiana Public Service Commission on April 23, 2001 of the sale to Atmos Energy Corporation of the LGS Natural Gas Company Subsidiary and the Louisiana Gas Service Company division;
- Current Report on Form 8-K of Citizens Communication Company filed with the SEC on April 4, 2001, including our press release announcing the offering of \$3.0 billion worth of debt and equity securities under a shelf registration statement;
- Current Report on Form 8-K of Citizens Communications Company filed with the SEC on March 29, 2001, including the audited financial statements of selected US WEST exchanges and the Frontier ILEC businesses as of December 31, 1999 and 1998 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 1999 and the unaudited financial statements for the nine months ended September 30, 2000 and 1999 and pro forma financial information;

48

- Current Report on Form 8-K of Citizens Communications Company filed with the SEC on March 8, 2001, including our press release announcing fourth quarter results and including our financial and operating data tables;
- Current Report on Form 8-K of Citizens Communications Company filed with the SEC on February 13, 2001, including financial statements of the GTE combined entities as of September 30, 2000 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2000 and 1999 and financial statements of Contel of Minnesota, Inc. for the eight months ended August 31, 2000 and 1999, and pro forma financial information; and
- Current Report on Form 8-K of Citizens Communications Company filed with the SEC on November 14, 2000, including the audited financial statements of the GTE combined entities and Contel of Minnesota, Inc. as of December 31, 1999 and 1998 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 1999 and for the six months ended June 30, 2000 and 1999 and pro forma financial information.

We also incorporate by reference all documents subsequently filed by us under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 after the date of this prospectus until our offering is completed.

We will provide you, upon written or oral request, with a copy of any of these documents, at no cost. You should direct your request, either in writing or by telephone, to

Citizens Communications Company  
3 High Ridge Park, Stamford, Connecticut 06905  
Attn.: Office of the Secretary  
Telephone 203-614-5600.

### LEGAL MATTERS

The legality of securities issued by Citizens offered hereby will be passed upon by Winston & Strawn, 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York, counsel for Citizens and for any underwriters by Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, 425 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York.

## Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 424B2

Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A., special Delaware counsel to the Trust, will issue an opinion concerning certain matters of Delaware law relating to the validity of the trust preferred securities on behalf of the Trust. In giving their respective opinions, Winston & Strawn and Simpson Thacher & Bartlett may rely as to certain matters of Delaware law upon the opinion of Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A.

### EXPERTS

Our consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2000, incorporated by reference in this prospectus from our Annual Report on Form 10-K, have been so incorporated by reference in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent public accountants, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The financial statements of the GTE combined entities as of December 31, 1999 and 1998 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 1999, incorporated by reference in this prospectus from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed November 14, 2000, have been so incorporated by reference in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent public accountants, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The financial statements of Contel of Minnesota, Inc. incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement to the extent and for the periods indicated in their reports dated January 27, 2000 and January 28, 1999 have been audited by Arthur Andersen LLP, independent public accountants, and are included herein in reliance upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing in giving said reports.

49

The special purpose financial statements of the selected, assets, liabilities and parent's equity of Qwest Communications International Inc.'s, formerly US WEST, Inc., selected Qwest exchanges, formerly selected US WEST exchanges, as of December 31, 2000 and 1999 and the related statements of revenue and expenses and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2000, incorporated by reference in this prospectus from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 7, 2001, have been audited by Arthur Andersen LLP, independent public accountants, as indicated in their reports with respect thereto, and are so incorporated by reference in reliance upon the report of said firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The combined financial statements of the Frontier ILEC businesses as of December 31, 1999 and 2000, for the year ended December 31, 2000, the nine-month period ended September 30, 1999 and the three-month period ended December 31, 1999, incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement have been audited by Arthur Andersen LLP, independent public accountants, as indicated in their report with respect thereto, and are included herein in reliance upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing in giving said report.

The combined financial statements of the Frontier Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier Businesses as of December 31, 1997 and 1998 and for each of the two years in the period ended December 31, 1998, incorporated in this registration statement by reference to Citizens Communications Company's Current Report on Form 8-K of dated March 29, 2001, have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent accountants, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

50

[LOGO]