

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 11-K

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO
Form 11-K
June 30, 2003

United States Securities and Exchange Commission
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 11-K

(Mark One)

Annual Report Pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002

or
--

Transition Report Pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 001-11 001

Frontier Union 401(k) Savings Plan

(Full title of the Plan)

Citizens Communications Company

3 High Ridge Park

P.O. Box 3801

Stamford, CT 06905

(Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the Plan and the address of its principal executive offices)

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 11-K

FRONTIER UNION 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN

Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedules

December 31, 2002 and 2001

(With Independent Auditors' Report Thereon)

Frontier Union 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN

Table of Contents

Independent Auditors' Report

Financial Statements:

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits - December 31, 2002 and 2001

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the Year Ended December 31, 2002

Notes to Financial Statements

Supplemental Schedules:*

Schedule H, Line 4(i) - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2002

Signature

Independent Auditors' Consent

Exhibits:

99.1 - 99.2 Certifications pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

* Schedules required by Form 5500 that are not applicable have not been included

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 11-K

Independent Auditors' Report

To Citizens Communications Company,
The Plan Administrator of Frontier Union 401(k) Savings Plan:

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Frontier Union 401(k) Savings Plan (the "Plan") as of December 31, 2002 and 2001, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2002. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2002 and 2001, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2002, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedule of assets (Held at End of Year) is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. This supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ KPMG LLP

New York, New York
June 26, 2003

FRONTIER UNION 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 11-K

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2002 and 2001

	2002	2001
Assets:		
Investments (see note 3):		
Citizens Communications Company common stock	\$ 7,516,296	\$ 2,470,706
Global Crossing common stock	26,801	1,381,033
Mutual funds	13,890,801	15,065,738
Collective trusts	14,892,602	13,569,838
Participant loans	3,126,385	3,126,853
Total investments	39,452,885	35,614,168
Receivables:		
Employer contribution	409,415	152,284
Participant contributions	65,666	202,132
Total receivables	475,081	354,416
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 39,927,966	\$ 35,968,584

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

2

FRONTIER UNION 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Year ended December 31, 2002

Additions to net assets attributed to:	2002
Investment income (loss):	
Dividends	\$ 638,357
Interest	221,010
Net depreciation in fair value of investments (note 3)	(5,225,607)
	(4,366,240)
Contributions:	
Participant	6,538,608
Employer	3,907,845
Rollovers	22,641
	10,469,094
Total additions	6,102,854
Deductions to net assets attributed to:	
Benefits paid to participants	(2,138,552)
Miscellaneous expenses	(4,920)

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 11-K

Total deductions	(2,143,472)
Net increase in assets available for benefits	3,959,382
Net assets available for benefits:	
Beginning of period	35,968,584
End of period	\$ 39,927,966

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

3

Frontier Union 401(k) Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2002 and 2001

(1) Description of the Plan

General

The following description of the Frontier Union 401(k) Savings Plan (the "Plan") provides general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more comprehensive description of the Plan's provisions.

(a) Background

The Plan is a voluntary defined contribution plan sponsored by Citizens Communications Company (the "Company"). At December 31, 2002, there were 1,896 employees eligible to participate in the Plan and 1,737 active employees participating in the Plan. On June 29, 2001, under a Stock Purchase Agreement, the Company purchased from Global Crossing Limited ("Global Crossing") 100% of the stock of Frontier Corp's local exchange carrier subsidiaries under a Stock Purchase Agreement. Under the terms of the Stock Purchase Agreement, the Company established the Plan effective June 29, 2001 to provide benefits to the bargaining unit employees of the following entities ("Participating Employers"):

Frontier Communications of AuSable Valley, Inc.

Frontier Communications of Illinois, Inc.

Frontier Communications of Iowa, Inc.

Frontier Communications of Lakeside, Inc.

Frontier Communications of Michigan, Inc.

Frontier Communications - Midland, Inc.

Frontier Communications of Minnesota, Inc.

Frontier Communications of Mt. Pulaski, Inc.

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 11-K

Frontier Communications of New York, Inc.

Frontier Communications - Prairie, Inc.

Frontier Communications of Sylvan Lake, Inc.

Frontier Telephone of Rochester, Inc.

Effective July 19, 2001, the Plan accepted a transfer of net assets of the portion of the Frontier Group Bargaining Unit Employees' Retirement Savings Plan (the "Frontier Bargaining Plan") in the amount of \$44,193,910, which is comprised of the accounts of Business Employees (as defined in the Stock Purchase Agreement) who formerly participated in the Frontier Bargaining Plan, pursuant to the spin-off of such portion from the Frontier Bargaining Plan and merger of such portion into the Plan in a transaction complying with the requirements of Section 414(l) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("IRC" or the "Code"). The Frontier Bargaining Plan was a defined contribution plan established by the seller under the Stock Purchase Agreement for all of its bargaining unit employees. The Plan administrator believes transfer of plan assets was a tax-exempt transaction under the applicable provisions of the IRC and, therefore, is not subject to Federal income tax.

4

The Plan is intended to qualify as a profit sharing plan pursuant to provisions of Code Section 401(a) and 401(k) and is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA") as amended.

(b) Participation

Under the terms of the Plan, bargaining unit employees, who are covered by collective bargaining agreements, except for temporary, summer, and leased employees, for the above Participating Employers are eligible to participate in the Plan on the first day of the month coincident with or next following his/her completion of 30 days of employment.

(c) Contributions

Eligible participants may contribute the Basic Contribution (as defined by the Plan), in 1% increments, up to 3% of their annual compensation through payroll deductions, subject to certain maximum contribution restrictions. In addition, if a participant is making Basic Contributions at the maximum rate of 3% of his/her contribution, he/she may also elect to make Supplemental Contributions (as defined by the Plan), in 1% increments, from 1% to 47% of his/her compensation, subject to certain maximum contribution restrictions.

All employees eligible to make contributions under the Plan and who have attained or will attain age 50 before the close of the Plan year shall be eligible to make catch-up contributions in accordance with, and subject to the limitations of, Section 414(v) of the Code. No matching contributions shall be made with respect to a Participant's catch-up contributions.

Participating Employers may contribute Employer Fixed Contributions,

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 11-K

Employer Matching Contributions or Employer Profit Sharing Contributions (as defined by the Plan). Participants should refer to their respective bargaining agreements for Employer Fixed Contribution requirements. The Employer Matching Contributions are equal to 100% or the first 3% of a participant's compensation that he/she elects to contribute to the Plan. The Participating Employer may make Employer Profit Sharing Contributions depending on the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement.

All Participating Employer contributions and the earnings thereon were invested initially in Citizens Communications Company common stock through April 30, 2002. All Participating Employer contributions remain in the Company Stock fund and are allocated to the Participant's Restricted Employer Contribution Account until the fifth anniversary of the date of investment. At the expiration of the five-year period, the investment in a Participant's Restricted Employer Contribution Account shall lose its restriction and may be invested by the participant pursuant to the Plan document in any other fund option or left in Citizens Communications Company common stock.

5

As of May 1, 2002, the Company contribution for certain participants is no longer exclusively allocated to Citizens Communications Company common stock. The Company contributions for these participants made subsequent to May 1, 2002 are allocated to Plan investment following the same method of allocation as that for participant-directed contributions.

(d) Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution and an allocation of (a) the Participating Employer's contributions and (b) Plan earnings or losses. Allocations are based on each participant's contribution, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the amount that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

(e) Investments

The Plan provides participants the option of having their Basic and Supplemental Contributions to the Plan made on a salary reduction basis and on a deferred tax basis. Upon enrollment in the Plan, a participant may direct contributions into the following investment options.

- * Putnam Income Fund
- * Putnam Global Equity Fund
- * Putnam Voyager Fund
- * Putnam Fund For Growth & Income
- * Putnam Asset - Allocation Balanced Fund
- * Putnam S&P 500 Index Fund
- * Putnam Stable Value Fund
- * Citizens Communications Company common stock

The Plan holds investments in the Global Crossing common stock as a result of the transfer of net assets from the Frontier Bargaining Plan to the Plan. The Plan trustee will continue to hold such shares in trust for the benefit of the previous Global Crossing employees until such time as any such employee elects to dispose of his or her shares based upon the Stock Purchase Agreement. However, the Plan does not

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 11-K

permit the participants to otherwise invest in Global Crossing common stock, whether with additional contributions made into the Plan, reallocation of other assets of a participant's account, or otherwise. On January 28, 2002, Global Crossing filed for bankruptcy. The value of the Plan's investment in Global Crossing common stock has declined significantly since December 31, 2001.

Effective July 1, 2003, the Plan added ten new investment choices and eliminated three investment choices increasing to 17 the investment fund choices available to plan participants.

(f) Vesting

Participants are immediately 100% vested in their contributions and allocated earnings thereon. Vesting in the Participating Employer contributions is based on years of continuous service. Participants should refer to their respective bargaining agreements for vesting requirements of Participating Employer contributions. Forfeited nonvested accounts are used to reduce future Participating Employer contributions.

6

(g) Payment of Benefits

Payment of benefits generally begins upon termination of service and attaining normal retirement age of 65. A participant may elect to receive either a lump-sum amount equal to the value of his or her vested account balance, or a participant may elect to receive installments over a period not to exceed 20 years. However, a participant who has reached age 59 1/2 but who has not yet terminated employment may withdraw all or a portion of his or her vested accumulated account balance in accordance with the terms of the Plan.

If upon termination of service a participant does not attain normal retirement age and the participant's vested account balance is greater than \$5,000, the participant may elect to receive a lump-sum amount, a direct rollover to a qualified plan under Section 401 of the IRC, or a direct rollover to a qualified Individual Retirement Account equal to the value of his or her vested account balance. If the vested account balance is less than \$5,000, the balance will be distributed to the participant as soon as administratively feasible.

(h) Forfeitures

For the year ended December 31, 2002, there were no forfeited company contributions. Forfeitures are retained in the Plan and are used to reduce future company contributions.

(i) Participant Loans

Loans are available to participants in the Plan on a nondiscriminatory basis. Participant loans cannot exceed the lesser of 50% of the vested amounts in the participant's account or \$50,000. A participant may only have two loans outstanding, and they are treated as directed investments by the borrower with respect to his or her account. The interest rate on loans is established based on the prime rate, under current plan provisions. Interest paid on the loan is credited to the borrower's account and the participant does not share in the income of the Plan's assets with respect to the amounts outstanding. Loans have a term of no more than five years except that a loan may be granted

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 11-K

for a period not to exceed 15 years if the proceeds are used to purchase the participant's principal residence.

(j) Administration

The Plan is administered by the Company's Retirement Committee whose members are appointed by the Company's Board of Directors. The trustee of the Plan is Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company (the Trustee).

(k) Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intention to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of plan termination, participants will become 100% vested in their accounts.

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

7

(b) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Certain reclassifications have been made to financial statements for prior years to conform to current presentation.

(c) Investments

The Plan's investments are stated at fair value. Shares of registered investment companies (mutual funds) are valued at quoted market prices, which represent the net asset value of shares held by the Plan. Investments in collective trusts are valued at fair value based on the underlying net assets of the trust as reported by the sponsor of the collective trust. Common stock is valued at its quoted market price as of the end of the Plan year. Participant loans are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The net depreciation/appreciation in the fair value of investments consists of the net realized gains and losses on the disposal of investments and the unrealized appreciation/depreciation of the market value for the investments remaining in the Plan in 2002.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the dividend date.

(d) Benefits Paid

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 11-K

(e) Administrative Expenses

Significant expenses associated with the Plan are paid by the Company.

(f) Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan offers a number of investment options including the Company common stock and a variety of pooled investment funds, some of which are registered investment companies. The investment funds include U.S. equities, international equities, and fixed income securities. Investment securities, in general, are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit, and overall market volatility risk. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is reasonable to expect that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participant account balances.

The Plan's exposure to a concentration of credit risk is limited by the diversification of investments across all participant-directed fund elections. Additionally, the investments within each participant-directed fund election are further diversified into varied financial instruments, with the exception of the Company common stock, which is invested in the security of a single issuer.

(g) Adoption of New Accounting Pronouncement

Effective January 1, 2001, the Plan adopted the Financial Accounting Standards Board's Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 133, Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities ("SFAS No. 133"). SFAS No. 133, as amended, requires that all derivative instruments be recognized in the financial statements and measured at fair value regardless of the purpose or intent of holding them. The adoption of SFAS No. 133 did not have an impact on the Plan's financial statements.

8

(3) Investments

The following presents investments that represent 5% or more of the Plan's net assets at the end of year:

	2002	
	-----	-----
Putnam Income Fund	\$ 2,841,433	\$
Putnam Global Equity Fund	2,747,655	
Putnam Voyager Fund	6,107,065	
Putnam S&P 500 Index Fund	5,066,823	
Putnam Stable Value Fund	9,825,779	
Citizens Communications Company common stock:		
Participant directed, 207,045 and 65,876 shares, respectively	2,184,316	
Nonparticipant directed, 505,400 and 165,897 shares, respectively	5,331,980	

During 2002, the Plan's investments (including gains and losses on

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 11-K

investments bought and sold, as well as held for the period) depreciated in value by \$5,225,607 as follows:

Mutual funds	\$ (3,299,64
Common stocks	(524,14
Collective trust	(1,401,82

	\$ (5,225,60
	=====

(4) Nonparticipant-Directed Investments

Information about the net assets available for benefits and significant components of the changes in net assets available for benefits relating to the nonparticipant-directed investments is as follows:

	2002

Net assets:	
Common Stock of the Company	\$ 5,331,980
	=====
Changes in net assets:	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 563,949
Employer contributions	3,085,454
Benefits paid to participants	(175,130)
Transfers out	(276,327)
Other	365,567

Change in net assets	\$ 3,563,513
	=====

(5) Related-Party Transactions

Certain Plan assets are invested in shares of mutual funds that are managed by Putnam. Putnam is the trustee as defined by the Plan, therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Fees paid by the Company to Putnam amounted to \$863 and \$976 for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001.

(6) Tax Status

The Plan submitted an application on February 27, 2002 for a determination that the Frontier Union 401(k) Savings Plan is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code and the related trust is tax exempt under Section 501(a) of the Code. On October 22, 2002, the Company received a favorable determination letter from Internal Revenue Service. The Plan Administrator and the Plan's tax counsel believe that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC.

(7) Subsequent Events

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 11-K

Effective January 1, 2002, the Company adopted "good faith" EGTRRA amendments to the Plan and to the Frontier Union 401(k) Savings Plan. Effective December 31, 2002, the Frontier Union 401(k) Savings Plan was merged into the Plan. The Plan was amended effective January 1, 2003 (except as otherwise provided in the Plan), to reflect such merger.

10

FRONTIER UNION 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN
Schedule H, line 4(i) - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2002

Identity of Issuer	Description of Investment
* Citizens Communications Company	Common Stock; 712,445 shares; cost at \$6,611,7
* Global Crossing Limited	Common Stock; 1,488,953 shares
	Total common stocks
* Putnam Income Fund	Mutual Funds; 425,364 shares
* Putnam Global Equity Fund	Mutual Funds; 464,916 shares
* Putnam Voyager Fund	Mutual Fund; 480,493 shares
* Putnam Fund for Growth & Income	Mutual Fund; 113,746 shares
* Putnam Asset - Allocation Balanced Fund	Mutual Fund; 70,129 shares
	Total mutual funds
* Putnam S&P 500 Index Fund - Collective Trust	Collective Trust; 234,142 shares
* Putnam Stable Value Fund - Collective Trust	Collective Trust; 9,825,779 shares
	Total collective trust
* Participant loans	524 loans with interest rates ranging from 4.2

* Party-in-interest as defined by ERISA

See accompanying independent auditors' report.

11

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 11-K

Frontier Union 401(k) Savings Plan

Signatures

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Plan Administrators have duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Frontier Union 401(k) Savings Plan

By /s/ Robert J. Larson

Robert J. Larson

Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer

June 30, 2003

12

Independent Auditors' Consent

The Board of Directors
Citizens Communications Company:

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in Registration Statement No. 333-91054 on Form S-8 of Citizens Communications Company of our report dated June 26, 2003, relating to the statement of net assets available for benefits of the Frontier Union 401(k) Savings Plan as of December 31, 2002 and 2001, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2002, and supplemental schedule as of December 31, 2002, which report appears in the annual report on Form 11-K of the Frontier Union 401(k) Savings Plan dated December 31, 2002.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS CO - Form 11-K

New York, New York
June 26, 2003