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Vice President – Regulatory Affairs



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February 3, 2006

Ms. Luly Massaro, Commission Clerk
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

Dear Ms. Massaro:

We are filing, herewith, for effect March 5, 2006, tariff material consisting of:

PUC RI No. 15

Part/Section	Revision of Pages	Original of Pages
A/1	22	N/A

With this filing, Verizon Rhode Island (“Verizon RI”) introduces a late payment charge for residential customers. A customer shall be given 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of the bill for payment in full. If payment is not received by the customer’s next billing date, a late payment charge of 1.5% will be applied to all outstanding amounts.

The introduction of a 1.5% late payment charge is reasonable and standard in the telecommunications industry. Verizon RI’s chief competitor in the residential market, Cox RI Telcom, also assesses a 1.5% late payment charge on overdue bills.

The late payment charge is an avoidable charge and does not affect all customers, only those who have not paid their bills on time. In December 2005, approximately 87% of Verizon RI’s residence customer bills were paid on or before the due date. Verizon RI will not assess a late payment charge on any disputed amounts of a bill on which a dispute is still pending, on final

accounts, or on an account where a customer has entered into an approved deferred payment arrangement.

Please note that although the proposed tariff becomes effective March 5, 2006, the first appearance of this charge will not be until customers' May, 2006 bills. Customer notification regarding the implementation of the residence late payment charge will begin in March and will continue through April.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact Pat Tapley of my staff at 401 525-2133.

Enclosed are an original and nine copies of the tariff pages. Please return a copy of this letter with your stamp of receipt.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa L. O'Brien

Attachment

Verizon New England Inc.

1. Tariff Information and General Regulations
1.5 Responsibility of the Customer

1.5.3 Liability	
A.	In case of damage, loss, theft or destruction of equipment and facilities furnished by the Telephone Company, the customer may be required to pay the expense incurred by the Telephone Company to replace or restore the equipment and facilities to its original condition.

1.5.4 Notification for Termination of Service	
A.	The right is reserved to require notice of not less than ten days of the customer's desire to terminate the service.

1.5.5 Payment of Bills	
A.	The customer is responsible for payment of all charges for service in accordance with the following provisions. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bills are due when rendered and are payable at an office of the Telephone Company. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Delayed payment of bills may result in the interruption or discontinuance of the customer's service. 2. The customer is required to pay, in accordance with the Telephone Company's established collection and billing practice, all charges for exchange, end user access and private line services; MTS messages, including charges for messenger service; and for all services billed by the Telephone Company for other carriers. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The customer is held responsible for all charges for telephone service rendered at the customer's telephone, both exchange and MTS, including charges for MTS messages on which the charges have been made collect.
B. Late Payment	
1.	For business customers, all amounts outstanding 25 days or more from the date on which the bill for such amounts is mailed are subject to a late payment charge, with the exceptions specified in Section 1.5.5.B.3. The late payment charge is 15.84% until January 1999; thereafter, the late payment charge will be calculated at an annual rate of interest which is the equivalent of the rate paid on two-year United States Treasury notes for the preceding 12 months ending June 30 on any year, plus 10%. (T)
2.	Residence customer bills for service are due on the due date specified on the bill. A customer shall be given 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of the bill for payment in full. If payment is not received by the customer's next billing date, a late payment charge of 1.5% will be applied to all previously unpaid charges relating to telephone services with the exceptions specified in Section 1.5.5.B.3. (N)
3.	The late payment charge will not apply on the following amounts or accounts: (T)
a.	Any disputed amounts of a customer bill for which a dispute is pending;
b.	The final bill amount for a customer account, except that any late payment charges included in the balance on a final statement are still due; (T)
c.	Residential accounts in an approved deferred payment arrangement. (N)
C. Returned Check	Whenever a check or draft presented for payment of service is not accepted by the institution on which it is written, a returned check charge applies, per check or draft written.

Effective: March 5, 2006

Vice President Regulatory-RI

To be implemented beginning with May 2006 billing.