

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: VERIZON RHODE ISLAND : DOCKET NO. 3956

ORDER

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2008, Verizon Rhode Island (“Verizon”) filed a tariff to introduce a monthly late payment charge of 1.5% (18% annually for residential customers for effect June 14, 2008 with the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”); and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2008, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (“Division”) filed a memorandum indicating that it did not support Verizon’s filing noting that a number of other utilities do not assess late payment charges and of those that do the late payment charge is lower than that requested by Verizon; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2008, Verizon responded to the Division’s memorandum noting that in twenty states Verizon has late payment charges of at least 1.5% including in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, the Division responded to Verizon’s June 11, 2008 noting again its objection to the filing and indicating that if approved, the late payment fee be no greater than the rate of interest Verizon provides on customer deposits; and

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2008, at an open meeting, the Commission deliberated on Verizon’s proposal and rejected the request for a 1.5% late payment charge; and

WHEREAS, during the open meeting and after deliberation the Commission, by a two to one majority voted to approve Verizon assessing a late payment fee of 1% (12% annually).

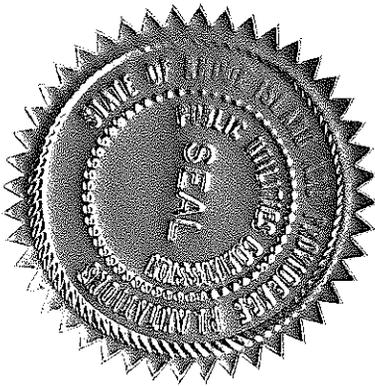
Accordingly, it is

(19329) ORDERED:

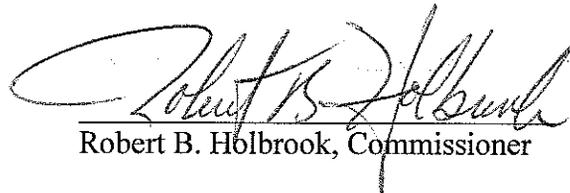
1. Verizon Rhode Island's proposal for a late payment charge of 1.5% is hereby denied.
2. Verizon Rhode Island is authorized to assess a late payment charge of 1.0% effective June 14, 2008.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON JUNE 14, 2008,
PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION ON JUNE 12, 2008. WRITTEN
ORDER ISSUED JULY 7, 2008.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION




Elia Germani, Chairman


Robert B. Holbrook, Commissioner


Mary E. Bray, Commissioner*

*Commissioner Bray voted against the late payment charge.