

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held January 16, 2003

Attendees: Chairman Elia Germani, Commissioner Racine, Commissioner Brenda Gaynor, Steve Frias, Thomas Massaro, Alan Nault and Luly Massaro.

Chairman Germani called the open meeting to order at 1:35 P.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission. A quorum was present.

Competitive Telecommunications Service Providers:

The following companies submitted tariff revisions. The Division has reviewed the tariff filings and does not recommend suspension of:

2449 - Brooks Fiber Communications of RI, Inc.

3450 - ICG Telecom Group, Inc.

2738 - Conversent Communications of RI, Inc.

2472 - Sprint Communications

3196 - Z-Tel Communications, Inc.

2262(K8) - Long distance of Michigan, Inc.

2262(Z15) - Direct One, LLC

After review, the Commission followed the Division's recommendation that the tariff filings be allowed to go into effect without suspension.

3457 - City of Newport Water Division (NWD): The Commission discussed the status of the utility's flat rate design proposal. Commissioner Racine noted little documentation is available on the development of the rate classes. At the present time, NWD has a restricted fund balances of \$2.0 million for IFR/CIP and \$1.5 million for debt service. NWD has been undergoing a transition with the management of the City of Newport. The Commission needs to take a close look at the structure of organization. Based on her discussion with Mr. Massaro, the utility is expected it file a rate case in the near future which will present flat retail rates, and at this juncture, the parties are in agreement that it would be appropriate to allow NWD to withdraw the flat rate design proposal.

Commissioner Racine moved to allow NWD to withdraw the rate design proposal filed with the Commission in this docket. Further, Mr. Massaro is assigned to investigate and review the finances, operations, and capital program of the utility. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gaynor and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

3445 – Verizon Rhode Island: The Commission is in receipt of correspondence from intervenors Cox and Conversent in response to Verizon's (letter dated 01/13/03) communicating their understanding and requirement of the Commission's decision at the open meeting held on 01/10/03. In general, the intervenors asserted that Verizon's understanding is correct, however, it was incomplete. The Commission requested that

Verizon respond to clarify and confirm the intervenors assertions outlined in their correspondence.

There being no further business to discussed, the open meeting adjourned at 1:50 P.M.