

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held January 31, 2006

Attendees: Chairman Elia Germani, Commissioner Robert Holbrook, Commissioner Mary Bray, Steve Frias, Cindy Wilson-Frias, Thomas Massaro, Alan Nault, Douglas Hartley and Luly Massaro.

Chairman Germani called the open meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission.

Minutes of Open Meetings held on 1/19/06: After review, Chairman Germani moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Holbrook and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Competitive Telecommunications Service Providers

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

2472 – Sprint Communications (tariff filings 12/29/05, 1/9/06 & 1/20/06)

2535 – Cox RI Telcom (tariff filings 1/9, 1/18 & 1/19/06)

3313 – T-NETIX Telecommunications Services, Inc. (tariff filing 1/10/06)

3059 – Broadview Networks, Inc. (tariff filing 1/12/06)

3647 – XO Communications Services, Inc. (tariff filings 1/10/06)

2426 – TCG-Rhode Island (tariff filings 1/12 & 1/13/06)

2618 – AT&T Communications (tariff filings 1/10, 1/13 & 1/17/06)

2878 – Choice One Communications of RI (tariff filing 1/12/06)

2262(A6) – SBC Long Distance, LLC (tariff filing 1/9/06)

2262(F16) – Bell Atlantic Communications, Inc. (tariff filing 1/17/06)

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

3195 – Verizon Rhode Island – The Commission reviewed Verizon's revised performance metrics to the Carrier-to-Carrier Guidelines (C2C) that was filed on January 6, 2006. The Division reviewed Verizon's filing and recommended adoption of the proposal. After review, Chairman Germani entertained a motion to approve Verizon's revisions to the C2C filed on January 6. Commissioner Holbrook moved to approve the motion. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

3588 – Verizon Rhode Island – The Commission reviewed the Arbitrator's Recommendation Order No. 18416 on Verizon's Petition for Arbitration of the Amendment of Interconnection Agreement with Competitive Local Exchange Carriers and the comments received from Covad Communications and Verizon. After review, Chairman Germani entertained a motion to affirm the Arbitrator's Recommendation. Commissioner Holbrook moved to approve the motion. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion. Motion to affirm Arbitrator's Recommendation Order No. 18416 is passed. **Vote 3-0.** (Arbitrator Steve Frias recused himself from participation in the discussion of this docket and was not present during the discussion.)

3655 - Block Island Power Co. (BIPCO) – The Commission reviewed the Town of New Shoreham's Motion for Summary Rejection of BIPCo's Management Compensation Compliance Filing; or in the Alternative, for an Investigation of BIPCo's Management Compensation Payment and Practices. After review, Chairman Germani entertained the following motion:

- To reject the Town of New Shoreham's Motion for Summary Rejection of BIPCo's Compliance Filing.
- With respect to the Town's Motion for an Investigation of BIPCO's Management Compensation, and Payment and Practices, the Commission noted that BIPCO, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, and the Town of New Shoreham are in the process of providing a report for Commission's review that would identify and report on related issues and development of an IRP. Furthermore, BIPCO's level of management compensation was settled in the Settlement, BIPCo has not sought to increase rates for this purpose, and if BIPCO wanted to increase its management compensation, it could use shareholder's profit.
- To accept BIPCO's Management Compensation Compliance Filing in compliance with Commission's Order No. 18364. Nothing precludes the Commission from further review of these issues during the next rate case or after receiving the DSM/IRP report.

Commissioner Holbrook concurred with the Chairman and moved to approve the motion. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

3716 – Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid – The Commission reviewed National Grid's proposed changes to its Line Extension Policies for effect 2/1/06 and the Division recommendation. After review, Chairman Germani entertained a motion to approve the following:

- To approve National Grid's proposed changes with modifications as follows.
- On Policy 1, to increase terms for overhead installation from \$1,500 to \$6,000 for customers who qualify for the payment plan, but to treat the \$6,000 as a deductible allowing financing on the remaining cost in excess of \$6,000.
- That National Grid file updated line extension costs by March 1, 2006.
- On Policy 3, to adopt name change to include existing residential customers
- That National Grid defines the term "excessive" as it relates to the blasting and tree trimming costs.
- That National Grid file revised Line Extension Policies in conformance with this open meeting decision by February 10, 2006.

Commissioner Holbrook moved to approve National Grid's Line Extension Policies with the modifications discussed herein. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The open meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.