

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held April 29, 2014

Attendees: Chairperson Margaret Curran, Commissioner Paul Roberti, Commissioner Herbert DeSimone, Patricia Lucarelli, Cindy Wilson-Frias, Amy D'Alessandro, Sharon Colby Camara, Alan Nault and Luly Massaro.

Chairperson Curran called the open meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission. A quorum was present.

Competitive Telecommunications Service Providers Dockets

The following company filed an application for authority to provide telecommunications services in Rhode Island. The Division reviewed the application and recommended approval of:

- 4502 – CenturyLink Public Communications, Inc.

After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve the application.

Commissioner Roberti seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The following companies filed tariff revisions to their existing tariffs (on date). The Division reviewed the tariff filings and recommended that the tariff filings be allowed to go into effect without suspension:

- 2618 – AT&T Corp. (tariff filings 4/11 & 4/18/14)
- 2426 – Teleport Communications America, LLC (4/11/14)
- 2262(A6) – SBC Long Distance, LLC (tariff filing 4/11/14)

After review, the PUC accepted the Division's recommendation to allow the tariff filings go into effect without suspension.

3482 – Total Communications, Inc. (Company) – The Company ceased operations and requested that its authority to conduct business be withdrawn. Chairperson Curran moved to rescind the authority of the Company. Commissioner Roberti seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4500 – Verizon Rhode Island – Verizon filed on April 17, 2014, a tariff filing to make available various residential services to existing wholesale customers on a non-resale basis until August 17, 2014. The Division reviewed the filing and recommended that the tariff filing go into effect without suspension. After review Commissioner DeSimone moved to adopt the Division's recommendation to allow the tariff filing go into effect without suspension. Commissioner Roberti seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4501 – Verizon Rhode Island – Verizon filed on April 17, 2014, a tariff filing to withdraw and retire various residential services with few subscribers. The Division reviewed the filing and recommended that the tariff filing go into effect without suspension. After review Commissioner DeSimone moved to adopt the Division's recommendation to allow the tariff filing go into effect without suspension. Commissioner Roberti seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4498 – Verizon Rhode Island – Verizon filed an Interconnection Agreement (ICA) executed between Verizon New England d/b/a Verizon Rhode Island and Birch Communications of the Northeast, Inc. d/b/a Birch Communications. The Division reviewed the ICA and recommended adoption. After review, Commissioner Roberti moved to adopt the ICA. Commissioner DeSimone seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4499 – A & R Marine Corp. d/b/a Prudence & Bay Islands Transport – A&R Marine filed on April 16, 2014, proposed initial tariffs and schedules for ferry service between Bristol and Hog and Prudence Islands. A&R Marine proposed the same rates currently being charged by Prudence Ferry, Inc. After review and discussion, the PUC agreed to allow A&R Marine’s initial rates go into effect without suspension. Commissioner Roberti moved to find that there no basis to investigate the initial rates proposed by A&R Marine for reason that A&R Marine will be charging the same rates as Prudence Ferry. Commissioner DeSimone seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

3569 – Kent County Water Authority (KCWA) – KCWA filed on March 25, 2014, a tariff provision to offer customers an optional webpage payment method through a Third Party Vendor. KCWA also requested a waiver of Section VII of the Rules Governing the Acceptance of Credit Cards by Utility Companies to allow web page payment. KCWA proposes that customers who choose to pay by credit card will be assessed a transaction fee of 1.75% of the amount of payment plus a flat fee of \$1.00 (“Enhanced Access Fee”), and customers who choose to pay by electronic check will be assessed a flat fee of \$0.50 per transaction (“Enhanced Access Fee”). After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to grant KCWA’s waiver request and approve the optional webpage payment method. Commissioner Roberti seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4403 – Consumer Protection Requirements for Nonregulated Power Producers (NPP Consumer Rules) – After discussion, Commissioner Roberti moved to open this docket to propose changes to the existing NPP Consumer Rules. Commissioner DeSimone seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.** The proposed changes will require NPPs to include customer notification, disclosure and information needed to make an informed decision about the purchase of energy from a NPP. The proposed rules streamline the dispute process between the customer and NPPs. A hearing is scheduled June 12, 2014 to solicit comments on the proposed rules and the deadline to submit written comments is June 16, 2014.

4496 – Golden Ale Realty LLC - Golden Ale Realty filed an application seeking certification for the Golden Ale Realty LLC 406 KW (DC) Solar PV Generation Unit, a 0.406 MW solar energy generation unit located in Cranston, Rhode Island, as an eligible New Renewable Energy Resource. PUC Consultant submitted a memorandum summarizing his review, findings and recommended approval of the application. After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve the application. Commissioner Roberti seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The open meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.