

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

**Public Utilities Commission**

**Minutes of Open Meeting Held August 15, 2006**

**Attendees:** Chairman Germani, Commissioner Robert Holbrook, Commissioner Mary Bray, Steve Frias, Thomas Massaro, Alan Nault 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 Meeting held on 8/3/06:** After review, Chairman Germani moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Holbrook seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**Competitive Telecommunications Service Providers** – The following company filed an application for authority to provide telecommunications service in RI. The Division has reviewed the application and recommends approval of:

2262(P20) – First Communications, LLC

After review, Chairman Germani entertained a motion to approve the registration and Commissioner Holbrook moved to approve. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

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

2535 – Cox RI Telcom, LLC (tariff filing 8/1/06)

2618 – AT&T Communications of NE, Inc. (tariff filings 7/17, 8/1 & 8/3/06)

2426 – TCG Rhode Island (tariff filings 7/31/06)

3381 – DSCI Corp. (tariff filings 7/19/06)

2486 – MCImetro Access Transmission service (tariff filings 7/24 & 8/3/06)

2621 – MCI Communications Services, Inc. (tariff filing 7/21/06)

3333 – United Systems Access Telecom, Inc. (tariff filing 7/27/06)

3010 – RNK, Inc. (tariff filing 8/1/06)

3028 – Qwest Communications (tariff filing 8/2/06)

3026 – CTC Communications Corp. (tariff filings 7/28 & 8/1/06)

2878 – Choice One Communications (tariff filing 7/28/06)

2472 – Sprint Communications (tariff filing 7/27/06)

3107 – Lightship Telecom, LLC – (tariff filing 7/27/06)

3713 – Comtel Assets LP (tariff filing 8/1/06)

2702 – Verizon Select Services (tariff filing 7/18/06)

2262(F16) – Bell Atlantic Communications, Inc. (tariff filings 7/19 & 8/2/06)

2262(P7) – MCI Communications Services, Inc. (tariff filings 7/21 & 8/3/06)

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

**3727 – Verizon Rhode Island** – Verizon submitted tariff filing to increase the rate of the

interest rate charged to business customers on past due balances. Verizon's proposed to increase the monthly rate from 1.035% to 1.5% per month (18% annual rate). The Division filed a memo indicating that it had reviewed Verizon's filing and supports approval. After review, Chairman Germani entertained a motion to approve Verizon's tariff filing as submitted and Commissioner Bray moved to approve the tariff filing. Commissioner Holbrook seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**3757 – Verizon Rhode Island** – Verizon submitted a tariff filing to introduce two new service packages for residential customers - "Regional Essentials" and "Regional Value" for effect August 20, 2006. The Division filed a memo indicating that it has reviewed Verizon's tariff filing and finds that it conforms to Verizon's Successor Alternative Regulation Plan and Order No. 18550. After review, Chairman Germani entertained a motion to approve Verizon's tariff filing as submitted and Commissioner Holbrook moved to approve the tariff filing. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**3758 – Verizon Rhode Island** – Verizon submitted a tariff filing to increase the month-to-month rate for Business Measured One-party Service (Business Basic Exchange Service) and decrease the monthly rate for 24-month term for effect August 20, 2006. The Division filed a memo indicating that it has reviewed Verizon's tariff filing and finds that it conforms to Verizon's Successor Alternative Regulation Plan and Order No. 18550. After review, Chairman Germani entertained a motion to approve Verizon's tariff filing as submitted and Commissioner Holbrook moved to approve the tariff filing. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**3739 – Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – The Commission reviewed the RI Public Utility Regulatory Reform Alliance's (RIPURRA) petition consisting of a Motion to Intervene, Motion for Relief From Order, Motion for Reopening and Reconsideration; and Motion for Rate Reduction concerning Narragansett Electric's Standard Offer Rate Adjustment Filing and the various responses by the parties. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed that nothing distinguishes RIPURRA from the ratepayers in general and that the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers can adequately represent its interests. Chairman Germani entertained a motion to deny RIPURRA's motion to intervene and all other motions contained in the petition. Commissioner Holbrook seconded the Chairman's motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**3569 – New England Gas Co. (NEGas)** – The Commission reviewed NEGas' tariff filing to increase the Optional Credit Card Provision transaction fees for residential and commercial customers. NEGas also requested a waiver of the 30-day notice requirement to allow the tariff to become effective on less than 30 days notice. After review Commissioner Bray moved to approve NEGas' tariff filing and to deny NEGas' request to waive the 30-day notice requirement. Chairman Germani seconded the motion. Commissioner Holbrook dissented. **Vote 2-1.**

**3762 - Interstate Navigation Co.** – Interstate Navigation submitted a rate filing proposal designed to generate additional revenues in the amount of \$2,438,522 or 27.15% for effect August 30, 2006. After review, Chairman Germani moved to suspend the rates pending investigation and hearing. Commissioner Holbrook seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The open meeting adjourned at 2:20 P.M.