

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

VERIZON RHODE ISLAND'S :
ANONYMOUS CALL REJECTION : DOCKET NO. 3430
TARIFF FILING :

ORDER

On May 3, 2002, Verizon Rhode Island ("VZ-RI") filed with the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") an amendment to RIPUC Tariff No. 15 providing for the addition of Anonymous Call Rejection ("ACR") to the PhoneSmart features offered in Rhode Island. ACR allows a called party to redirect calls for which the calling name and/or number has been suppressed through the use of Per Call or Line Blocking to an announcement indicating the called party is not accepting such calls.¹ The ACR feature is provided at no cost with all Caller ID features and is also available to non-Caller ID subscribers at a monthly subscription rate. If approved, ACR would be available for activation and ordering in Rhode Island on June 15, 2002.

On May 8, 2002, Deborah DeBare, Executive Director of the RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence ("Coalition"), filed a statement with the Commission indicating that

¹ The ACR feature is initially provided in the deactivated state, and the customer has the choice whether or not to activate the ACR feature. Activating the ACR feature will prevent only blocked callers, i.e., incoming calls that would otherwise be displayed as "Private" or "Anonymous" on the called party's caller ID indicator, from reaching the called party. ACR cannot prevent incoming calls displayed as "Out-of-Area" or "Unavailable" from reaching the called party.

“the Coalition does not have any concerns or issues related to [VZ-RI’s ACR tariff filing], since we have been working with Verizon to develop a plan to enable the domestic violence agencies to call their clients, who may be living in dangerous homes, without jeopardizing the safety of their clients. At this point in time, the Coalition is comfortable with the solutions that we have identified.”

On May 30, 2002, the Division of Public Utilities & Carriers (“Division”) recommended approval of VZ-RI’s ACR tariff filing. The Division indicated that it was satisfied that VZ-RI had instituted safeguards so that domestic abuse victims making calls to or receiving calls from E-911 would not be adversely affected by ACR service. At an open meeting on May 30, 2002, the Commission reviewed the submissions and found that approval of VZ-RI’s ACR filing was in the best interest of the ratepayers and would not detrimentally affect public safety. The Commission also commended VZ-RI’s efforts in addressing the safety issues and concerns previously raised by the Coalition and public safety officials.

Accordingly, it is

(17103) ORDERED:

1. Verizon Rhode Island’s Anonymous Call Rejection tariff filing of May 3, 2002, as modified on June 5, 2002 to correct a typographical error², is approved.

² On June 5, 2002, VZ-RI filed a substitute tariff page with the Commission correcting a non-substantive typographical error on page 33, part M, Section 1 of the tariff.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND PURSUANT TO AN
OPEN MEETING ON MAY 30, 2002. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED AUGUST
20, 2002.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Elia Germani, Chairman

Kate F. Racine, Commissioner

Brenda K. Gaynor, Commissioner