

Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers – Cable Section

2005 Docket Items

2005-C-1 COX COMMUNICATIONS RATE FILING (CLOSED)

On May 2, 2005 Cox Communications, Inc. filed a notification of rate information for all its cable services areas. The notification was submitted on Federal Communications Commission forms 1240 and 1205. The rate filing methodologies for these forms permit Cox to seek certain rate increases in accordance with a formula established by the FCC. Under the formula, Cox may adjust its rates on an annual basis in order to recover inflation and external costs. The Division is barred under FCC rules from altering any permitted rate changes filed in accordance with the formula.

The filing indicated that Cox decided not to increase rates at this time, but reserved the right to modify its rates and charges at a later time during the year filing period.

Subsequently, Cox filed an amended 1240 to correct certain figures relating to the calculation of the “maximum permitted rates” and then withdrew the 1240 filing in its entirety, preferring to obtain Division approval at a to be determined later date. This decision was based on the fact that no rate increase was being proposed at this time. The 1205 submittal, which includes maximum rates for all other services besides rates, was left for Division consideration.

A public hearing was held on July 26, 2005 and the Division issued its order on August 22, 2005 approving the 1205 rates and accepting the withdrawal of the 1240 forms from consideration. At this Cox has opted not to implement any of the “related services” increases authorized in the 1205 maximum permitted rates.

2005-C-2 AN HOUR WITH BOB, ROBERT P. VENTURINI, PUBLIC ACCESS
(CLOSED)

On August 29, 2005 Cox Communications filed an e-mail complaint with the DPUC concerning public access television producer, Robert P. Venturini. The complaint alleged use of prohibited commercial material in certain of his public access shows. The DPUC held an informal hearing on the complaint on September 22, 2005 to review the matter within the 30 day period of Mr. Venturini’s cable rules authorized suspension by Cox.

As a result of the evidence presented by Cox through both oral argument and video tapes, and as a result of Mr. Venturini’s admissions to the violations, the DPUC issued an Order on September 28, 2005, finding Mr Venturini in violation of the inclusion of prohibited, commercial material in public access programming. The DPUC affixed a 90 day probation on Mr. Venturini and warned that further violation during the probationary period could result in the revocation of his public access privileges.

2005-C-3 J-TV, JOHN A. ALBANESE, Jr., PUBLIC ACCESS **(CLOSED)**

On August 29, 2005 Cox Communications filed an e-mail complaint with the DPUC concerning public access producer, John A. Albanese. The complaint alleged use of prohibited commercial material in certain public access shows and use of abusive and vulgar behavior and language toward a Cox public access employee while in a Cox public access studio. The DPUC held an informal hearing on the complaint on September 22, 2005 to review the matter within the 30 day period of Mr. Albanese's cable rules authorized suspension by Cox.

As a result of the evidence presented by Cox through oral argument and video tapes, and as a result of Mr. Albanese's admissions to the violations, the DPUC issued an Order on September 28, 2005, finding Mr. Albanese in violation of the inclusion of prohibited, commercial material in public access programming and in violation of certain rules related to abusive behavior. The DPUC affixed a 90 day probation on Mr. Albanese for the commercial violations to commence after the additional 30 day suspension affixed for the abusive behavior. The DPUC further warned that any future violation during the probationary period could result in a revocation of his public access privileges.