

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS**

IN RE: Application of Verizon New England, Inc. for :
Cable Television Certificates of Authority to :
Operate for Service Areas 2, 3 and 8; and : Docket No. 2007-C- 1
Petition of Verizon New England, Inc. for Waiver :
of the 60-day notice requirement under Section :
3.5(b) of the Cable Rules :

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On March 8, 2007, Verizon New England, Inc. ("Verizon") filed an application with the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers ("Division") seeking Compliance Order Certificates for Rhode Island CATV Service Areas 2, 3 and 8. Through this application filing, Verizon sought the first of three licensing certificates, which if the Division granted all, would enable Verizon to provide cable television services in the communities of: Providence, North Providence, Cranston, Foster, Scituate, Johnston, Hopkinton, Richmond, Charlestown, Westerly, South Kingstown and Narragansett. The application was filed in conformance with the requirements of Section 3.3 of the Division's "Rules Governing Community Antenna Television Systems" ("Cable Rules"). After conducting a duly noticed public hearing on the matter, the Division granted Verizon's application for Compliance Order Certificates on August 21, 2007.

Subsequently, on August 22, 2007 Verizon filed an application with the Division for Construction Certificates for Rhode Island CATV Service Areas 2, 3 and 8. The application was filed in conformance with the requirements of Section 3.4 of the Division's Cable Rules. Through this second filing, Verizon sought the second of the three licensing certificates required to enable it to provide cable television services in Rhode Island CATV Service Areas 2, 3 and 8. After conducting a duly noticed public hearing on Verizon's second application filing, the Division granted Verizon's application for Construction Certificates on November 7, 2007.

On November 7, 2007, Verizon filed an application for the third requisite licensing certificates, Certificates of Authority to Operate. This final application was filed pursuant to Section 3.5 of the Division's Cable Rules. The Division has scheduled and plans to conduct a public hearing on Verizon's final application filing at **10:00 AM on December 3, 2007**. The hearing will be held at the Division's Offices located at 89 Jefferson Boulevard in Warwick. The purpose of this hearing is to receive evidence and argument from the parties of record and public comment on Verizon's filed application. Through the hearing process, the Division will determine if Verizon has complied with applicable statutes, the Cable Rules, and the conditions, terms, and requirements previously imposed by the Division.

Along with its November 7, 2007 application filing, Verizon also petitioned the Division for a waiver of Section 3.5(b) of the Cable Rules, which requires the holder of a construction certificate to give the Division at least sixty (60) days prior written notice before the anticipated date when the CATV System (or initial segment thereof) will be ready for commencement or actual service to the public. Verizon is seeking the waiver based on its claim that it would be ready to begin offering cable television services to approximately 29% of the residential households in Service Areas 2, 3 and 8 by December 17, 2007. Verizon argues that it would not be in the public interest to impose the 60-day notice requirement in this case, as it would delay the offering of services to at least January 6, 2008. In the interest of administrative economy, the Division has consolidated the required hearing on Verizon's waiver petition into the public hearing identified above. Under the Cable Rules, the Division must determine, after public hearing, whether the public interest would be served by the granting of the requested waiver.

The application and waiver petition are on file and available for inspection at the Division's Offices at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02888.

The Division is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify Mr. Stephen Martin at 941-4500, extension 131, 72 hours in advance of the hearing date.

Thomas F. Ahern
Administrator
November 20, 2007