

Rhode Island Verizon Line Extension Policy

Verizon Line Extension Policy

Pursuant to Section 10.3 of the Rules of the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers Governing CATV Systems (the “Rules”), the following describes the circumstances in which Verizon New England, Inc., (hereafter “Verizon” or “the “Company”) will construct line extensions in order to make the Company’s CATV services available to persons requesting service where there are fewer than 15 residences per ¼ mile. In addition, this policy sets forth the conditions on which the Company will provide a subscriber cable drop in unusual circumstances, such as a non-standard drop, even where there may be more than 15 residences per ¼ mile. In any event, line extensions and non-standard cable drops may be made as long as they do not impose any undue burden on either the Company or its existing subscribers.

1. Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the Company to serve the public interest by extending cable services to as many persons as economically feasible within the Company’s Franchise service area. The Company will deploy cable services in accordance with the Rules where density requirements are met. In addition, the Company may make line extensions as long as such extensions do not impose any undue burden on either the Company or its existing subscribers.

2. Operating Service Area

The Company’s Operating Service Area consists of all portions of any Service Area for which the Company has received a Certificate of Authority to Operate and offers cable service.

3. Criteria for Extensions

The following criteria apply if a potential subscriber or group of subscribers¹ residing in the same area request an extension of the Company’s network and/or facilities so that they may subscribe to the Company’s cable services.

- a. The potential subscriber or group of subscribers must reside in an area which, in the event the extension is built, may be served out of an existing video serving office and either: (1) the Company has completed construction of its CATV facilities in the Service Area consistent with the timetable and minimum density requirements of the

¹ By way of illustrative example, a ‘group of subscribers’ is intended to refer to situations such as gated private communities or similar collective of housing units, and not to ‘apartment style’ or other Multiple Dwelling Units subject to Section 39-19-10.

Rules; or (2) the timetable for completion of construction of the Service Area under Chapter 8 of the Rules has expired.

- b. The potential subscriber or group of subscribers) must pay an upfront initial engineering evaluation fee to cover the preliminary design and development of the cost estimate related to the requested extension.
- c. The potential subscriber or group of subscribers agrees to pay the one-time charge equivalent to the Company's incremental costs of designing and constructing the line extension. The Company's one-time charge will include all costs required to extend the network, including, but not limited to, total construction, engineering and design, capital and administrative costs. The Company will provide the estimate of incremental costs for the line extension to the potential subscriber (or the pro-rata cost estimate to each member of a group of potential subscribers) within 45 days of receiving the payment provided for in subpart (b), above. The Company may require each potential customer requesting service to execute agreement(s) reflecting each parties' responsibilities for costs related to extension of facilities for non standard subscriber drops.
- d. When sufficient payments are made to cover the Company's total incremental costs of providing the line extension and all necessary agreements are returned to the Company, then the Company will proceed to construct the extension and such extension shall become part of the Company's Operating Service Area.
- e. Notwithstanding the above requirements, the Company may deny extension requests where significant technical or legal limitations on the Company's ability to satisfy the request make a line extension impracticable or unreasonably expensive, including, but not limited to, the company's technology, access to right-of-ways, the ability to extend the FTTP network or lack of utility company facilities. In the event that the Company denies an extension request, the upfront initial engineering evaluation fee described in Part 3(b) above will be refunded.

During the first 12 months following the commencement of service using the constructed line extension, any new customer requesting service will be charged a pro-rata fee based on the original cost estimate before service is initiated. At the end of 12 months, any overpayment of the original costs by earlier subscribers will be equitably refunded to them on a pro-rata basis.

4. Non-Standard Subscriber Drops

Where a subscriber's request for service involves unusual circumstances, such as a request to locate a cable drop underground or where the structure to be served is more than 150 feet from the Company's distribution cable, time and material charges will apply in addition to the usual connection fees.

5. New Construction

Property owners or developers will be required to provide to the Company 120 days written notice of the particular date on which open trenching will be made available to the Company for construction of its network. The Company may require the developer or property owner to agree to sign an agreement and to provide full or partial financial reimbursement at least 60 days in advance of the open trenching date. If signed agreements and the actual reimbursement is not received as required and the Company chooses not to participate in open trench construction, the Company shall make its best efforts to construct the cable plant in a reasonable period of time (usually within 12 months of receipt of a signed agreement and payment), taking into consideration the Company's other construction commitments, weather conditions, material shipments, and other relevant factors; however, the developer or property owner will have to bear any increase in construction costs due to the change in using the direct burial method instead of open trenching.

6. Payments

Reimbursement Payments related to the non-standard service line extensions are required prior to the start of construction by the Company.

7. Ownership of Facilities

The Company shall own and maintain any and all facilities added, constructed or extended as a result of a request for construction pursuant to this line extension policy.