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

**IN RE:** Application Of Verizon New England, Inc.

For A Cable Television Compliance Order

Certificate For Service Area 6, And Related : Docket No. 2006-C- 4

Petitions For Partial Waivers

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

On February 7, 2006, Verizon New England, Inc. ("Verizon") filed an application with the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers ("Division") seeking a Compliance Order Certificate for Rhode Island CATV Service Area 6. Through this application filing, Verizon seeks the first of three licensing certificates, which if the Division granted all, would enable Verizon to provide cable television services in the communities of Coventry, East Greenwich, Exeter, North Kingstown, Warwick, West Warwick and West Greenwich. 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").

As part of its filing Verizon has also petitioned the Division for partial waivers from the requirements of Section 7.3 (A) and Sections 14.2 –14.7 of the Cable Rules. Specifically, "Verizon is seeking a waiver of the portion of Section 7.3 that requires cable operators to construct a physically separate I-Net." In its partial waiver of Section 14 petition, Verizon proposes to share the cost of operating the existing PEG Access Studio in Service Area 6 with the incumbent cable operator in lieu of building a duplicative PEG access studio. The petitions for partial waivers were filed in conformance with the requirements of Section 1.12 of the Division's Cable Rules.

Pursuant to Section 3.3 Division's Cable Rules, the Division has scheduled and plans to conduct <u>four</u> public hearings in this docket, on the dates and times provided below. If all four days are not needed the Division reserves the right to cancel one or more of the scheduled hearing dates. If additional, or alternative, hearing dates become necessary, the hearings may continue thereafter form day-to-day and time-to-time as required.

 Wednesday
 October 4, 2006 at 9:30 A.M.

 Wednesday
 October 11, 2006 at 9:30 A.M.

 Thursday
 October 12, 2006 at 9:30 A.M.

 Friday
 October 13, 2006 at 9:30 A.M.

The hearings will be held at the Division's Offices located at 89 Jefferson Boulevard in Warwick.

The purpose of these hearings is to receive evidence and argument from the parties of record and public comment on Verizon's filed application and waiver petitions. Through the hearing process, the Division will determine if Verizon is fit, willing, technically qualified, and financially able to perform the service for which it has applied, and is willing and able to comply with the Division's Cable Rules and the laws of the State of Rhode Island; and to determine whether the public interest would be served by granting, in whole or in part, Verizon's requests for partial waivers.

The application and waiver petitions 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 Stephen Martin at 941-4500, extension 131, 72 hours in advance of the hearing date.

Thomas F. Ahern Administrator September 19, 2006