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September 10, 2013

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES MAIL ROOM

Kristi Izzo, Board Secretary Board of Public Utilities 44 S Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Trenton, NJ 08625

CE13090835

Re:

In the Matter of the Petition of Comcast of South Jersey, LLC, for a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Continue to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Cable Television System in and for the Township of Harrison, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Our File No. 041000.02300

Dear Secretary Izzo:

Enclosed herewith please find the original and eleven (11) copies of the Verified Petition and Verification filed on behalf of Comcast of South Jersey, LLC ("Comcast"), along with three (3) copies of Comcast's public Application for Renewal of a Certificate of Approval ("Application"), with respect to the above-referenced matter. Said copies of the Application have been redacted so as to protect certain confidential information contained therein. Confidential copies of the Application are being submitted simultaneously under separate cover, along with Comcast's request for confidential treatment, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:1-12 et seq.

Kindly file the Petition and please return the extra copy stamped "RECEIVED" in the envelope provided herein.

Thank you for your kind consideration. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

Dennis C. Linken

For the Firm

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DCL:dp

cc:w/enc.

Lawanda R. Gilbert, Acting Director (via first class mail)

Christopher J. White, Deputy Public Advocate (via first class mail.)

Diane L. Malloy, Township Clerk (via first class mail)

Charles L. Smith III, Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs (via first class mail)

STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION

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Attorneys for Petitioner
Comcast of South Jersey, LLC
File No. 41000.2300

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF COMCAST OF SOUTH JERSEY, LLC, FOR A RENEWAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TO CONTINUE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF HARRISON, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

VERIFIED PETITION

Docket No.

Comcast of South Jersey, LLC (hereinafter "Comcast" or "Petitioner"), hereby petitions the Honorable Board of Public Utilities (the "Board"), pursuant to 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> §546(c), <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:5A-15, -16 and -17, <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 14:17-6.9 and <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 14:18-13.1 *et seq.*, for renewal of a Certificate of Approval. In support of its Petition, Petitioner states as follows:

COUNT ONE

- 1. Comcast, a limited liability company duly organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, is a cable television company subject to the jurisdiction of the Office of Cable Television ("OCTV") and the Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.
- Comcast maintains its principal offices at 1846 N. W. Boulevard,
 Vineland, NJ 08360.

- 3. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17(a) and (b) and -28(c), on or about January 28, 1983, in Docket No. 828C-6939, the Board issued a Certificate of Approval to Penn Communications, Inc. ("Penn") to construct, operate and maintain a cable television system ("System") in the Township. A copy of said Certificate of Approval is on file at the OCTV.
- 4. Thereafter, pursuant to authorization of the Board as set forth in its Order of Approval dated February 20, 1985, in Docket No. 8412C-7133, Signet Cablevision Limited Partnership VII (hereinafter "Signet") acquired from Penn the cable television system serving the Township, including the Certificate of Approval pertaining thereto.
- 5. Thereafter, pursuant to authorization of the Board set forth in its Order of Approval dated July 15, 1988, in Docket No. CM88050684, South Jersey Cablevision Limited Partnership (hereinafter "South Jersey") acquired from Signet the cable television system serving the Township, including the Certificate of Approval pertaining thereto.
- 6. Pursuant to authorization of the Board as set forth in its Order of Approval dated March 31, 1993, in Docket No. CM92101022, South Jersey Cablevision Associates ("SJCA") acquired from South Jersey the cable television system serving the Township, including the Certificate of Approval pertaining thereto.
- 7. On or about April 8, 1994, in Docket No. CE93040136, the Board issued a Renewal Certificate of Approval to SJCA's successor, South Jersey Cable Communications of Gloucester County, Inc. On or about August 22, 1994, the Board issued an Order amending the Certificate of Approval issued in Docket No. 828C-6939, correctly identifying the franchisee as SJCA.
- 8. At the time of the acquisition of the System by SJCA, Lenfest Atlantic, Inc. ("Lenfest"), a subsidiary of Lenfest Communications, Inc. ("LCI"), was a partner in SJCA.

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Subsequent thereto, pursuant to authorization of the Board in Docket No. CM95050238, LCI, through another affiliate, Lenfest South Jersey Investments, Inc. ("LSJI"), acquired the remaining partnership interest in SJCA. Pursuant to authorization granted by the Board in Docket No. CM95120611, LSJI was merged with and into Lenfest. As a result of said merger, and by operation of law, Lenfest became the sole owner and operator of the System.

- 9. On January 18, 2000, pursuant to an Order of Approval issued by the Board in Docket No. CM99110855, Lenfest became an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Comcast Corporation. Subsequently, on or about September 13, 2000, Lenfest's name was formally changed to Comcast Cablevision of South Jersey, Inc. ("Comcast Cablevision"). Effective May 13, 2004, Comcast Cablevision was converted to a limited liability company and was later renamed Comcast of South Jersey, LLC, Petitioner herein.
- 10. On or about May 5, 2005, in Docket No. CE03120962, the Board issued a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Petitioner, to continue to construct, operate and maintain the System in the Township. A copy of said Renewal Certificate of Approval is on file at the Board.
- 11. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 14:18-13.3(a)3, on or about April 26, 2012, Petitioner submitted an Application for Renewal of Municipal Consent (hereinafter the "Municipal Application") to continue to construct, operate and maintain the System in the Township.
- 12. On or about July 2, 2012, a public hearing was held by the Township with respect to Petitioner's Municipal Application, during which all interested persons desiring to be heard were so heard.
- 13. On or about December 3, 2012, the Township adopted Ordinance No. 45-2012 (the "Ordinance") granting to Petitioner renewal of its Municipal Consent ("Renewal of

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Municipal Consent") to continue to construct, operate and maintain the System in the Township.

A copy of the Ordinance is annexed hereto as Exhibit A.

- 14. On or about June 26, 2013, Comcast filed its formal acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Renewal of Municipal Consent granted by the Township, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-24. A copy of said letter of acceptance is annexed hereto as Exhibit B.
- 15. The information pertaining to Petitioner on file with the OCTV, together with the information contained in its Application for Renewal of a Certificate of Approval ("COA Application"), simultaneously submitted herewith, all of which is adopted by reference thereto, establishes the requisite criteria for the continued construction, ownership, operation and management of the System in Harrison by Comcast.
- operation of the System. Further, as indicated in the COA Application and other information on file with the OCTV, Comcast possesses the necessary financial integrity and the ability to perform efficiently the proposed services and those services which may be required by the public convenience and necessity during the renewal period. The public convenience and necessity generally support the appropriateness of the issuance of a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Petitioner.
- 17. Petitioner has complied, and will continue to comply, with all rules, regulations and laws applicable to the construction, operation and maintenance of the System and will continue to provide safe, adequate and proper cable television service in the Township of Harrison and the other municipalities in which it serves.

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COUNT TWO

- 18. Comcast repeats paragraphs 1 through 17 of COUNT ONE as if set forth fully hereinafter.
- 19. As set forth in the Municipal Application, the COA Application and other information on file at the OCTV, the System operated by Comcast in the Township is part of larger regional Comcast and Comcast-affiliated cable television systems serving numerous other municipalities contiguous to and surrounding the Township.
- 20. As also set forth in the Municipal Application, the COA Application and other information on file at the OCTV, the Township represents an integral part of the Comcast and Comcast-affiliated regional cable television systems serving the counties of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Salem. In addition, the demographics of the Township, as well as its location and other factors, mandate that cable television service be provided by Comcast as part of Comcast's and its affiliates' regional systems.
- 21. The Township portion of Comcast's and its affiliates' Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Salem County regional cable systems is necessary for the continued provision of safe, adequate and economical cable television service to the citizens and residents of the Township and the larger cable television systems generally. Further, continuation of Comcast's operating authority in the Township will avoid an unreasonable duplication of services which would otherwise be detrimental to the development of adequate cable television service.
- 22. Comcast is entitled to a renewal of its Municipal Consent and Certificate of Approval, pursuant to the provisions of Section 17(b) of the New Jersey Cable Television Act, N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.

- 23. Comcast believes that a Renewal Certificate of Approval for the Township of Harrison is necessary and proper for the public convenience and will serve the public interest for reasons which include, *inter alia*, the following:
- (a) The grant of a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Comcast will ensure the continued provision of safe, adequate and proper cable television service to the residents of the Township;
- (b) The services provided and to be provided by Comcast as set forth in its Municipal Application and its COA Application are and will be of great benefit to the citizens and residents of the Township;
- (c) The financial strength and technical expertise of Comcast are more than adequate to continue to construct, operate and maintain its cable television system in the Township of Harrison; and
- (d) Comcast, its officers and directors, have vast experience in all aspects of cable television. In particular, they possess and represent the highest degree of technical and engineering competence, significant administrative experience and a demonstrated responsiveness to community needs. In addition to Harrison, Comcast and its affiliates hold Certificates of Approval or other authorization to construct, operate and maintain cable television systems in more than 340 municipalities in New Jersey, as well as additional communities in 38 other states.

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WHEREFORE, it is requested that this Honorable Board of Public Utilities issue to Comcast of South Jersey, LLC, a Renewal Certificate of Approval to continue to construct, operate and maintain a cable television system in the Township of Harrison.

Respectfully submitted,

SCARINCI & HOLLENBECK, LLC Attorneys for Petitioner Comcast of South Jersey, LLC

By:____

Dennis C. Linken

Dated: September 10, 2013

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