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Irene Kim Asbury, Secretary

NJ Board of Public Utilities

Trenton, NJ 08625

44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor

August 4, 2015

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BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES MAIL ROOM

CE 150 80893

Re:

In the Matter of the Petition of Comcast of Garden State L.P., for a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Continue to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Cable Television System in and for the Township of Lumberton, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey Our File No. 41000.3000

Dear Secretary Asbury:

Enclosed herewith please find the original and eleven (11) copies of the Verified Petition and Verification filed on behalf of Comcast of Garden State L.P. ("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 seg.

Kindly file the Petition and please return the extra copy of this letter and Petition stamped "RECEIVED" in the self-addressed, stamped 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,

D Linken Idp Dennis C. Linken For the Firm

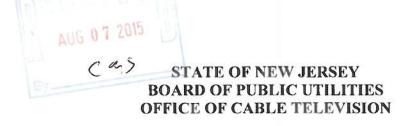
DCL:dp

cc:w/enc. Lawanda R. Gilbert, Acting Director (via first class mail)

Maria T. Novas-Ruiz, Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel (via first class mail)

Stephanie Yurko, Township Clerk (via first class mail

Fred J. DeAndrea, Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs (via first class mail)





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BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

MAIL ROOM

SCARINCI & HOLLENBECK, LLC 1100 Valley Brook Avenue P.O. Box 790 Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071-0790 (201) 896-4100 Attorneys for Petitioner Comcast of Garden State L.P. File No. 41000.3000

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF COMCAST OF GARDEN STATE L.P., FOR A RENEWAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TO CONTINUE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LUMBERTON, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

VERIFIED PETITION

Docket No.

Comcast of Garden State L.P. (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 partnership 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 1250 Haddonfield-Berlin Road, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08034.

- 3. On or about November 7, 1979, in Docket No. 798C-6525, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17(a) and (b) and N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(c), the Board issued a Certificate of Approval to Audubon Electronics, Inc. ("Audubon") to provide cable television service in the Township of Lumberton, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey ("Township" or "Lumberton"). A copy of said Certificate is on file with the OCTV.
- 4. On November 6, 1980, in Docket No. 8010C-6721, the Board approved the transfer of the Certificate of Approval with respect to the Township from Audubon to New York Times Cable Company of New Jersey ("NYT").
- 5. On July 26, 1989, in Docket No. CM89030342, the Board approved the sale of NYT's cable television system, including the transfer of the Certificate of Approval with respect to the Township, to Garden State Cablevision, L.P. ("Garden State").
- 6. On December 16, 1998, in Docket No. CE95010007, the Board issued to Garden State a Renewal Certificate of Approval to continue to provide cable television service in the Township. A copy of said Renewal Certificate is on file with the OCTV.
- 7. On or about January 5, 2000, in Docket No. CM99110855 the Board authorized the merger Lenfest Communications, Inc., which owned a 50% interest in Garden State, with and into a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Comcast Corporation, which owned the remaining 50% interest. As a result of said merger, Garden State, subsequently renamed Comcast of Garden State L.P., Petitioner herein, became indirectly wholly-owned by Comcast Corporation.
- 8. 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 July 18, 2012, Petitioner submitted an Application for Renewal of Municipal Consent (hereinafter the "Municipal Application") to continue to construct, operate and maintain a cable television system ("System") in the Township.

- 9. On or about May 5, 2014, 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.
- 10. On or about December 2, 2014, the Township adopted Ordinance #2014-11-007 (the "Ordinance") granting to Petitioner renewal of its Municipal Consent ("Renewal of 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.
- 11. On or about June 17, 2014, 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.
- 12. 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 Lumberton 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.
- 14. 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 Lumberton and the other municipalities in which it serves.

## COUNT TWO

- 15. Comcast repeats paragraphs 1 through 14 of COUNT ONE as if set forth fully hereinafter.
- 16. 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.
- 17. 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 Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, Ocean 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.
- 18. The Township portion of Comcast's and its affiliates' Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, Ocean 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.

- 19. 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.
- 20. Comeast believes that a Renewal Certificate of Approval for the Township of Lumberton 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 Lumberton; 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 Lumberton, 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.

WHEREFORE, it is requested that this Honorable Board of Public Utilities issue to Comcast of Garden State L.P., a Renewal Certificate of Approval to continue to construct, operate and maintain a cable television system in the Township of Lumberton.

Respectfully submitted,

SCARINCI & HOLLENBECK, LLC Attorneys for Petitioner Comcast of Garden State L.P.

By: Dennis C. Linken

Dated: August 4, 2015

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

SCARINCI & HOLLENBECK, LLC 1100 Valley Brook Avenue P.O. Box 790 Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071-0790 (201) 896-4100 Attorneys for Petitioner Comcast of Garden State L.P. File No. 41000.3000

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF COMCAST OF GARDEN STATE L.P., FOR A RENEWAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TO CONTINUE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LUMBERTON, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## VERIFICATION

Docket No.

Fred J. DeAndrea, hereby certifies as follows:

- I. I am Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs of Comcast of Garden State L.P., Petitioner in the within matter.
- I am familiar with the nature and contents of the Petition to which this
   Verification is annexed.
- 3. The allegations of the Petition are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I may be subject to punishment.

Fred J. DeAndrea

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Dated: August 3, 2015