



Agenda Date: 10/15/15
Agenda Item: IIIA

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

CABLE TELEVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)
COMCAST OF NEW JERSEY II, LLC FOR A)
RENEWAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TO)
CONTINUE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND)
MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM IN)
AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH RIVER,)
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW)
JERSEY)
AUTOMATIC RENEWAL)
CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL)
DOCKET NO. CE15050621)

Parties of Record:

Dennis C. Linken, Esq., Scarinci Hollenbeck, LLC, for the Petitioner
Patricia O'Connor, Clerk, Borough of South River, New Jersey

BY THE BOARD:¹

On June 19, 1980, the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") granted Suburban Cablevision ("Suburban") a Certificate of Approval in Docket No. 801C-6621 for the construction, operation and maintenance of a cable television system in the Borough of South River ("Borough"). On May 21, 1992, the Board granted Suburban a Renewal Certificate of Approval for the Borough, in Docket No. CE90101225. Due to a Board-approved acquisition transaction, Comcast Cablevision of New Jersey, Inc. ("Comcast") became the holder of the Certificate. On June 6, 2001, the Board granted Comcast a Renewal Certificate of Approval for the Borough, in Docket No. CE01030189. Based on a name change, the current holder of the Certificate is Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC ("Petitioner"). Although by its terms the Renewal Certificate expired on June 19, 2015, the Petitioner is authorized to continue to provide cable television service to the Borough pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-25, pending disposition of this proceeding regarding the renewal of its Certificate of Approval.

On April 16, 2015, the Petitioner notified the Borough of its intention to exercise its right under the automatic renewal provision of the Borough's municipal consent and the Renewal Certificate of Approval. On May 21, 2015, the Petitioner filed with the Board for Automatic Renewal of its Certificate of Approval for the Borough, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-16, -19 and -25 and N.J.A.C.

¹ Commissioner Upendra J. Chivukula recused himself due to a potential conflict of interest and as such took no part in the discussion or deliberation of this matter.

14:17-6.9 and 14:18-13.6. The filing indicates that on February 12, 2001, the Borough adopted an ordinance granting municipal consent. On March 1, 2001, the Petitioner accepted the ordinance which provided for a term of 15 years with an automatic renewal for a term of an additional ten years.

The Board reviewed the Petition for an Automatic Renewal Certificate of Approval and the Application for Renewal of the Cable Television Franchise filed by the Petitioner. Based upon this review and the recommendation of the Office of Cable Television, the Board **HEREBY FINDS** the following:

1. The Petitioner possesses the requisite legal, character, financial and technical qualifications for the awarding of a Certificate of Approval.
2. The design and technical specifications of the system will ensure that the Petitioner provides safe, adequate and proper service.
3. The Petitioner represented that all previously required construction within the franchise territory is complete.
4. The franchise period as provided in the ordinance is an automatic renewal term of ten years. The Board finds this duration to be reasonable.
5. The Borough may review the performance of the Petitioner with regard to the ordinance. On the fourth anniversary of the franchise term, the Petitioner shall provide written notification to the Borough regarding its right to review the Petitioner's performance under the ordinance. The Petitioner shall provide such reasonable and pertinent information as the Borough requests and, upon request, shall appear at a meeting of the Borough Council to answer questions about the operation of the company and its performance. Any review process shall be completed within six months of the initiating letter sent by the Petitioner. If the Borough determines that the Petitioner failed to substantially comply with the material terms and conditions of the ordinance, the Borough shall provide written notice to the Petitioner of such alleged instances of non-compliance, and shall grant the Petitioner 90 days to cure such deficiency. The Borough may petition the Board for appropriate administrative action, including revocation of the franchise or reduction of the franchise term, but only after the 90-day opportunity to cure has passed and the deficiency has not been cured.
6. The Petitioner's rates shall be regulated and tariffs shall be filed for all services, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, the Board, and the Office of Cable Television. The Petitioner shall maintain and file with the Board an informational schedule of prices, terms and conditions for unregulated service and promptly file any revisions thereto.
7. Pursuant to statutory requirements, the ordinance specifies a complaint officer to receive and act upon complaints filed by subscribers in the Borough. In this case, it is the Office of Cable Television. All complaints shall be received and processed in accordance with the applicable rules.

8. The Petitioner shall maintain a local business office or agent within the Borough limits for the for the purpose of receiving, investigating and resolving complaints. Currently, the primary local business offices serving this provision are: 72 Main Street, South River, New Jersey and 800 Rahway Avenue, Union, New Jersey.
9. The franchise fee to be paid to the Borough is specified to be 2% of the Petitioner's gross revenues from all recurring charges in the nature of subscription fees paid by subscribers for its cable television reception service in the Borough, and shall be increased as required by N.J.S.A. 48:5A-30. Additional regulatory fees shall be paid to the State in an amount not to exceed 2% of Petitioner's gross operating revenues derived from intrastate operations. The Board finds these fees to be reasonable.
10. The Petitioner shall provide service to any residence or business along any public right-of-way located in all areas of the franchise territory at no cost beyond standard and non-standard installation charges as set forth in the Petitioner's application. In all other circumstances, the Petitioner shall utilize the line extension policy ("LEP") attached to the Certificate. The minimum homes per mile figure is 35.
11. The Petitioner shall provide public, educational and governmental ("PEG") access channels and facilities in accordance with its renewal application and the ordinance. Specifically, the Petitioner shall continue to provide three dedicated PEG access channels and shall relocate one origination site for the Borough, including wiring and modulator, free of charge, provided that such relocation can be accomplished without technical difficulty or significant cost to the Petitioner. The Petitioner shall respond to PEG access channel problems within 48 hours of notification of said problem, provided there are no other simultaneous system problems of higher priority.
12. Upon four weeks' notice of a request by the Borough, the Petitioner shall videotape up to two events per year and shall provide the recording to the Borough for use on its access channels.
13. The Petitioner shall maintain a system-wide public access channel for use by qualified individuals and organizations in the municipalities served by the Petitioner's system. The Petitioner shall continue to make available, on a first-come first-served basis, a mobile production vehicle unit with cameras, recording and editing equipment for the community for the purpose of community access programming production.
14. The Petitioner shall provide a standard installation and monthly basic cable television service, free of charge, on one outlet to each public and private elementary, middle and secondary school in the Borough.
15. The Petitioner shall provide one standard installation and basic cable television service, free of charge, to the following locations in the Borough: each municipal building, each police, fire, first aid, public works facility, public library, and municipally-owned community and senior citizens center.

16. The Petitioner shall continue to provide one non-networked outlet of basic Internet service, via high speed cable modem, free of charge, to each school and public library in the Borough. To qualify for free installation, the facility must be a standard installation. The connection shall be installed in a location accessible for student or patron use, and shall not be restricted to administrative use.
17. Upon written request of the Borough, the Petitioner shall appear at least once annually at a public meeting of the governing body or before the Borough Cable Television Advisory Committee, to discuss matters pertaining to the provision of cable television service to residents of the Borough and other related issues as the Borough and the Petitioner may see fit.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17(a) and 28(c), the Board **HEREBY FINDS**: the Petitioner has the municipal consent necessary to support the petition, such consent and issuance thereof are in conformity with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.; the Petitioner complied, or is ready, willing and able to comply, with all applicable rules and regulations imposed by or pursuant to State or federal law as preconditions for engaging in the proposed cable television operations; the Petitioner has sufficient financial and technical capacity, meets the legal, character and other qualifications necessary to construct, maintain and operate the necessary installations, lines and equipment; and that the Petitioner is capable of providing the proposed service in a safe, adequate and proper manner.

Therefore, the Petitioner is **HEREBY ISSUED** this Automatic Renewal Certificate of Approval as evidence of Petitioner's authority to construct, own, operate, and maintain a cable television system within the entirety of the Borough.

This Renewal Certificate is subject to all applicable State and federal laws, the rules and regulations of the Office of Cable Television, and any such lawful terms, conditions and limitations as currently exist or may hereafter be attached to the exercise of the privileges granted herein. The Petitioner shall adhere to the standards set forth by the Federal Communications Commission's rules and regulations, 47 C.F.R. § 76.1 et seq., including but not limited to, the technical standards 47 C.F.R. § 76.601 through § 76.630. Any modifications to the provisions thereof shall be incorporated into this Certificate.

Failure to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations and orders of the Board or Office of Cable Television, and/or the terms, conditions and limitations set forth herein, may constitute sufficient grounds for the suspension or revocation of this Certificate.

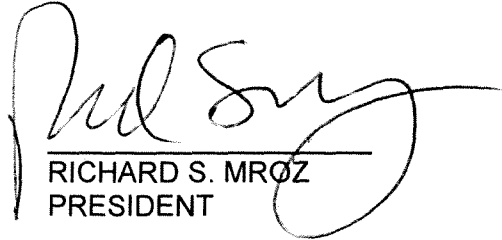
This Renewal Certificate is issued on the representation that the statements contained in the Petitioner's applications are true, and the undertakings therein shall be adhered to and enforceable unless a specific waiver is granted by the Office of Cable Television pursuant to the authority contained in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.

This Certificate shall expire on June 19, 2025.

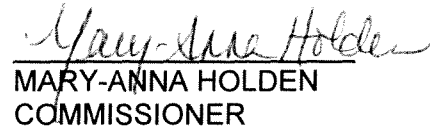
This Order shall be effective on October 25, 2015.

DATED: *October 15, 2015*

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:


RICHARD S. MROZ
PRESIDENT


JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
COMMISSIONER

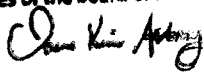

MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER


DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


IRENE KIM ASBURY
SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within
document is a true copy of the original
in the files of the Board of Public Utilities



APPENDIX "I"
OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION
LINE EXTENSION POLICY

COMCAST OF NEW JERSEY II, LLC
BOROUGH OF SOUTH RIVER

A cable operator is required to absorb the cost of extensions to the system in the same proportion that the extension is to the remainder of the system.

Actual subscribers served by the extension are required to absorb the remainder of the cost.

If new subscribers are added to the extension the cost is adjusted and those who previously paid receive an appropriate rebate.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. <u># of homes in extension</u>
mileage of extension | = | homes per mile (HPM) of
extension |
| 2. <u>HPM of extension</u>
Minimum HPM that
company actually
constructs in the
system * | = | ratio of the density of
the extension to the
minimum density which the
company constructs in the
system ("A") |
| 3. Total cost of building
the extension times "A" | = | company's share of
extension cost |
| 4. Total cost of building
extension less company's
share of extension cost | = | total amount to be
recovered from
subscribers |
| 5. Total amount to be
<u>recovered from subs</u>
Total subscribers in extension | = | each subscriber's share |

In any case, the company shall extend its plant along public rights of way to:

1. All residences and businesses within 150 aerial feet of the operator's existing plant at no cost beyond the normal installation rate.
2. All residences and businesses within 100 underground feet of the operator's plant at no cost beyond the normal installation rate.

 * The minimum HPM that the company actually constructs in the system or municipality is the minimum number of homes that the company has historically constructed at its own cost. This is a function of the operator's break-even point and its rate of return. Unbuilt systems will use the primary service area rather than construction.

The operator's installation policies shall apply to construction beyond the public right of way.

Detailed accounting and/or financial information to support the minimum HPM shall be supplied to the Office for its approval in such form as required. The minimum HPM shall be updated as appropriate.

When a request for service is received, and unless good cause is shown, cable companies shall:

1. Provide a written estimate within 30 days of such a request.
2. Begin construction within 60 days of receipt of any deposit monies from potential subscribers.
3. Complete construction within six months of receipt of any deposit monies from potential subscribers.
4. Inform each home passed along the extension of the potential costs for subscribers.

Subscribers who pay for an extension shall be entitled to rebates in the following manner:

1. If the company acquires new subscribers subsequent to the initial calculation of step 5 above, the formula will be adjusted and those who have previously paid for the extension will be entitled to an appropriate rebate. In no event shall the amount of the rebate exceed the subscriber's contribution.
2. The company shall keep accurate records of the cost of the extension, the amounts paid by subscribers and any appropriate adjustments.
3. The company shall notify subscribers in the extension of their rights and responsibilities concerning the extension.
4. Once an individual dwelling has paid its share of the extension cost future reconnections or installations shall be made at the company's standard rates.
5. After a period of five years from the installation of the first dwelling unit in the extension no further adjustments shall be made. Installations after five years shall be at the company's standard rate.
6. Once a subscriber is installed, that person shall not normally be entitled to a refund of any monies paid for the installations, except in accordance with the rebate procedure outlined in this policy.

Definitions

Primary Service Area

The Primary Service Area (PSA) can be an entire municipality, but in many instances the PSA is a limited area within a community outside of which a line extension policy may apply. The PSA is depicted by a franchise map and narrative, presented and recorded during the franchise proceedings. It normally remains a fixed geographic area throughout the life of the franchise.

Line Extension Survey

Potential subscribers residing outside the PSA who request service are entitled to an estimate of their share of the cost to secure service. When conducting a survey and estimating costs, a cable company should factor in all potential subscribers who could practicably be included in the extension and give consideration to apparent residential construction in areas contiguous to the proposed extension.

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