



State of New Jersey  
DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL  
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Lt. Governor

RECEIVED

JUL 31 2017  
STEFANIE A. BRAND  
Director  
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
MAIL ROOM

**Via Electronic and Regular Mail**

July 28, 2017

Irene K. Asbury, Board Secretary  
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Fl., Ste. 314  
P.O. Box 350  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Re: I/M/O Application by Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC for Renewal  
of a System-Wide Cable Television Franchise. BPU Docket No. CE17040432

Dear Secretary Asbury:

The Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") has reviewed the above-captioned matter filed by Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC ("Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo" and/or "Petitioner") seeking the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' ("Board") approval of Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo's Renewal Application of a system-wide cable television franchise affecting only one municipality, the Borough of Montvale in Bergen County, New Jersey. Rate Counsel submits the within comments for the Board's review and consideration. Enclosed with this original please find ten copies. Kindly return a date/stamped "Received" and/or "Filed" copy to Rate Counsel for its records. For the reasons that follow, Rate Counsel does not oppose Board approval of Petitioner's Application for Renewal of a System-Wide Cable Television Franchise ("Renewal Application") in the Borough of Montvale.

Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, filed its Renewal Application on April 25, 2017. The franchise renewal will only impact one town, the Borough of Montvale in Bergen County.<sup>1</sup> Public hearings were held and no objections to Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo's Renewal Application were presented at the public hearings nor written comments filed with the Board or Rate Counsel opposing approval of Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo's Renewal Application.<sup>2</sup> In making its determination the Board pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-14.2, and 14:18-14.13, must examine nine factors which include but are not limited to: the company's technical expertise and experience, services to be provided, the company's financial ability to provide services, and statutory commitments as required under N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(d), (f), and (h) through (n). If approved the term of the franchise will be seven years as per N.J.A.C. 14:18-14.13(e)2.

Rate Counsel's review of the Renewal Application and supporting documentation provided by Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo confirm Petitioner's current and continued service offerings and commitments which include a completely two-way capable system, consisting of digitized channels accessible through the use of a digital converter that may require the lease of a digital set top box with a remote unit supplied by Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo.<sup>3</sup> In addition, Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo will continue to provide a channel on its system dedicated to the Borough of Montvale solely for non-commercial (public access, educational access and governmental access) PEG

<sup>1/</sup> Renewal Application at pp. 1-3. Towns connected to this filing: Borough of Montvale.

<sup>2/</sup> Public Hearings on July 20, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. at the Borough of Montvale Council Chambers (Hearing Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), 12 Mercedes Drive, Montvale, New Jersey 07645.

<sup>3/</sup> Renewal Application at pp. 12-16.

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programming; although PEG channel location may be subject to change the channel is currently located on channel 77.<sup>4</sup> The filing notes that Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo has previously constructed a system subject to the minimal line extension obligations prescribed by the Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(h) through its municipal consents franchise and that no rebuild or upgrade are currently planned for the existing franchise area.<sup>5</sup> Lastly, among its commitments Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo will continue.<sup>6</sup>

- 1) A public access studio in New Jersey available for access users upon advance request, which includes at a minimum, television cameras, microphones, lighting and recording equipment. Cablevision will continue to make training available upon request pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(1); and
- 2) Provide free basic service and free Internet service within the community in the system-wide franchise area and provide return feeds to the municipality to distribute PEG programming where requested;

Rate Counsel is satisfied that Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo's Renewal Application satisfies the statutory and regulatory requirements under N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28, *et seq.* and N.J.A.C. 14:18-14.1, *et seq.* and support approval of Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo's Renewal Application for a renewal of a system-wide cable television franchise throughout the Borough of Montvale. Accordingly, Rate Counsel does not oppose Board approval of Petitioner's Renewal Application.

Thank you for your consideration of Rate Counsel's comments on this matter.

Very truly yours,

STEFANIE A. BRAND,  
DIRECTOR

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL



Maria T. Novas-Ruiz,  
Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel

cc: Service List

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<sup>4</sup>/ Renewal Application at pp. 12.

<sup>5</sup>/ *Id.* at 12-14.

<sup>6</sup>/ *Id.*

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