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44 SOUTH CLINTON AVENUE, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR POST OFFICE BOX 350 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0350 WWW.NJ.GOV/BPU LAWANDA R. GILBERT DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION & TELECOMMUNICATIONS TEL: (609) 341-9186 FAX: (609) 777-3325

March 2, 2023

Dennis Linken, Esq. Scarinci Hollenbeck, LLC 150 Clove Road, 9th Fl Little Falls, NJ, 07424

Re:

In the Matter of the Petition of Comcast of Central New 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 South Brunswick, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, Docket No. CE22060382

Dear Mr. Linken;

The Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications ("OCTV&T") is in receipt of the above captioned Petition for Renewal Certificate of Approval and attached application for the Township of South Brunswick ("Township"). The OCTV&T staff have completed a review of the file and would like the company to provide the following information in this matter:

- 1. Petition Exhibit A: Exhibit A of the Petition is the ordinance adopted on February 22, 2022. Staff notes that there is an error with the company name in the adopted ordinance in SECTION 1 and SECTION 2. The ordinance states that the company name is Comcast of Central New Jersey, L.P. and the correct company name is Comcast of Central New Jersey, LLC. The Adopted Ordinance may be amended by the Township to provide the correct company name. If the parties do not wish to amend the Ordinance, the Board will be required to address the deficiency in its review of the Application in the Certificate of Approval. Staff is requesting that the Petitioner review the matter and provide information as to how it chooses to address the incorrect company name.
- 2. Section IV. System Design Subsection 3 and 4: These sections require the company to provide information as to the number, cable channel designation, type of access channels and their manner of operation. Staff notes that the application states that the company will provide a leased access channel on Channel 190 and a dedicated government channel on Channel 26. However, the adopted ordinance states that the company will provide two (2) access channels, one (1) educational and one (1) governmental. Please provide an application page that addresses the educational access channel.
- 3. <u>Section IV. System Design Subsection 6:</u> This section requires the company to describe in narrative form, any other services available to subscribers. Such descriptions shall include, but not be limited to, the applicant's capability to contract with the community for such services as

emergency override, interconnection of schools or local government offices, and availability of equipment and technical advice to the community. Staff notes that the current Certificate of Approval ("COA") Docket No. CE12020170 requires the company to continue to provide an Institutional Network for all public schools in the Township. It is recommended that the Company confirm whether they will continue to provide an Institutional Network for all public schools as is indicated in the current COA, and if so, the application should be amended accordingly. If the Company is making changes to providing the services in question, the Office is requesting a written confirmation of same with a full explanation of the change to the current agreement.

4. <u>Section VI. System Plant Subsection 4:</u> This section of the application requires a Map of the entire Municipality be attached as an appendix. Please note that the current map submitted, does not meet the criteria that is listed in the application. Staff notes that the current map is missing a Map Legend, Municipality Borders, all streets which are to receive services including the Primary Service Area, and all streets which will be served under a "Line Extension Policy" ("LEP").

# Please submit a map that is legible and meets all of the following criteria:

- 1. Map Legend
- 2. Municipal Borders
- 3. All of the streets should be labeled, legible and note which are to receive service as the Primary Service Area and the Area Designated for LEP
- 5. <u>Section VII. System Design Subsection 6:</u> This section requires equipment specification sheets. Staff notes that this question is not required for the Application for Renewal of Certificate of Approval and is only required for the System Wide Franchise Application. Please provide an updated application page that removes the question.
- 6. <u>IX. Line Extension Policy:</u> The ordinance and application state that the OCTV&T's Line Extension Policy ("LEP") is applicable. However, no LEP was attached to the application as an Appendix. The current COA contains the OCTV&T's LEP, which will be used in the Township and is attached.

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Please respond to this correspondence by March 17, 2023. If you should have any questions, please contact me at (609) 341-9170 or e-mail nancy.wolf@bpu.nj.gov.

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Wolf

Administrative Analyst 4

Mancy J.

nw/ab

**Enclosures:** 

C: Barbara Nyitrai, Township Clerk (w/encl.)
Donald Sears, Esq., Township Attorney (w/encl.)
Robert Clifton, Comcast of Central New Jersey, LLC (w/encl.)
Stan Barrett, Esq., Scarinci Hollenbeck, LLC (w/encl.)
Ashley Bliss, OCTV&T (w/o encl.)

Agenda Date: 6/30/17 Agenda Item: IIIB

# APPENDIX "!" Office of Cable Television Line Extension Policy

Company

Comcast of Central New Jersey, LLC

Municipality

Township of South Brunswick

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.	# of homes in extension mileage of extension	=	homes per mile (HPM) of extension
2.	HPM of extension 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 recovered from subs Total subscribers in extension	=	each subscriber's share

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

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

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

Agenda Date: 6/30/17 Agenda Item: IIIB

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:

- 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.

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#### **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.