



Agenda Date: 9/4/24
Agenda Item: IIIC

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
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Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED PETITION CSC) RENEWAL CERTIFICATE OF
TKR, LLC D/B/A CABLEVISION OF MORRIS FOR) APPROVAL
RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TO)
CONTINUE TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE)
SYSTEM IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG,)
COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY) DOCKET NO. CE23090680

Parties of Record:

Vaughn Parchment, Esq., Norris McLaughlin, P.A., on behalf of CSC TKR, LLC d/b/a Cablevision of Morris
Cynthia Eckert, Clerk, Borough of Netcong, New Jersey

BY THE BOARD:

On April 15, 1981, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) granted Sammons Cable TV, Inc. (“Sammons”) a Certificate of Approval (“Certificate”), in Docket No. 7912C-6612, for the construction, operation and maintenance of a cable television system for the Borough of Netcong (“Borough”). On October 13, 1992, the Board granted Sammons a Renewal Certificate of Approval (“Renewal Certificate”) for the Borough in Docket No. CE91091465. Through a series of transfers with required Board approvals, CSC TKR, Inc. d/b/a Cablevision of Morris (“Cablevision”) became the holder of the Certificate. On September 5, 2002, the Board granted Cablevision a Renewal Certificate for the Borough in Docket No. CE02050288. Based on a name change, the current holder of the Certificate is CSC TKR, LLC d/b/a Cablevision of Morris (“Petitioner”). On November 10, 2010, the Board issued an Automatic Renewal Certificate for the Borough in Docket No. CE10080624. Although, by its terms, the Petitioner’s above referenced Certificate expired on September 5, 2018, 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 proceedings regarding the renewal of its Certificate.

The Petitioner filed an application for the renewal of its municipal consent with the Borough on or about January 23, 2018, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-23 and N.J.A.C. 14:18-13.1 to 9. On September 14, 2020, the Borough, after public hearing, adopted an ordinance granting renewal municipal consent to the Petitioner (“Ordinance”). The Petitioner formally accepted the terms and conditions of the Ordinance on May 18, 2021. On September 19, 2023, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-16, the Petitioner filed with the Board for a renewal of its Certificate for the Borough.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The Board has reviewed the application for municipal consent, the Ordinance, and the petition for a Renewal Certificate. Based upon this review and the recommendation of the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications, the Board **HEREBY FINDS** the following:

1. The Petitioner possesses the requisite legal, character, financial, and technical qualifications for the awarding of a Certificate. Further, these qualifications were reviewed by the Borough in conjunction with the municipal consent process.
2. The design and technical specifications of the system shall ensure that the Petitioner provides safe, adequate, and proper service.
3. The Petitioner has represented that all previously required construction within the franchise territory is complete.
4. The franchise period as stated in the Ordinance is ten (10) years from the effective date of this Renewal Certificate, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-19 and 25. The Board finds this franchise period reasonable.
5. The Petitioner shall provide service to any residence or business along any public right-of-way in the Primary Service Area, at no cost beyond standard and non-standard installation charges. For any extension outside the Primary Service Area to commercial and residential entities, the Petitioner shall extend service along any public right of way outside its service area to those residences within the franchise territory which are located in areas that have a residential density of twenty-five (25) homes per mile ("HPM"). The Petitioner will utilize the line extension policies attached to the Certificate (Appendix "I" and Appendix "II").
6. The Petitioner shall maintain 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 and Telecommunications. All complaints shall be received and processed in accordance with any applicable rules.
8. During the term of this franchise, and any renewal thereof, the Petitioner shall maintain a local business office or agent for the purpose of receiving, investigating, and resolving complaints regarding the quality of service, equipment malfunctions, and similar matters. The Petitioner currently maintains a local office located at 683 Route 10 East, Randolph, New Jersey.
9. The franchise fee to be paid to the Borough is specified to be two percent (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 or any additional amount required by N.J.S.A. 48:5A-30. Additional regulatory fees shall be paid to the State in an amount not to exceed two percent (2%) of Petitioner's gross operating revenues derived from intrastate operations. The Board finds these fees to be reasonable.

10. The Petitioner shall continue to provide public, educational, and governmental access channels and facilities in accordance with its renewal application and the Ordinance. Specifically, the Petitioner agrees to make available to the Borough one (1) channel for public access and one (1) channel for educational access. The Petitioner shall maintain a public access studio located at 352 Central Avenue, Newark, New Jersey, which is available for access users upon advance request. The location of said studio and the method of providing such services is subject to change.
11. Within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of this Certificate, the Petitioner shall provide to the Borough a grant of \$15,000 for the Borough's upgrade of its communications and information technology. Upon completion, the Petitioner shall submit proof to the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications indicating its compliance with this provision.
12. The Petitioner shall, upon written request, provide free of charge, one (1) standard installation and monthly cable television reception service to all State and locally accredited public schools, and all municipal public libraries, as well as municipal buildings located within the Borough.
13. Upon written request from the Borough, the Petitioner shall provide to state and locally accredited elementary and secondary schools and municipal public libraries in the Borough, without charge, the following: one (1) standard installation per school or library; one (1) cable modem per installation; and basic cable modem service for the term of the franchise for each installation. This offer shall be subject to the terms, conditions and use policies of the Petitioner, as those policies may exist from time to time.
14. Upon written request from the Borough, the Petitioner shall provide to one (1) municipally owned facility, without charge, the following: one (1) standard installation; one (1) cable modem per installation; and basic cable modem service for the term of the franchise for each installation. This offer shall be subject to the terms, conditions and use policies of the Petitioner as those policies may exist from time to time.

Based upon these findings, the Board **HEREBY CONCLUDES**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17(a) and 28(c), that the Petitioner has the municipal consent necessary to support the petition; that such consent and issuance thereof are in conformity with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 to 64; that the Petitioner has complied or is ready, willing, and able to comply with all applicable rules and regulations imposed by or pursuant to State and federal law as preconditions for engaging in the proposed cable television operations; that the Petitioner has sufficient financial and technical capacity, and 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 Renewal Certificate as evidence of Petitioner's authority to construct and operate 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 Telecommunications, 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 operating 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 the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications 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 contained shall be adhered to and be enforceable unless specific waiver is granted by the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications pursuant to the authority contained in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 to 64.

This Certificate shall expire on September 11, 2034.

This Order shall be effective on September 11, 2024.

DATED: September 4, 2024

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:


CHRISTINE GUHL-SADOVY
PRESIDENT


DR. ZENON CHRISTODOULOU
COMMISSIONER


MARIAN ABDOU
COMMISSIONER


MICHAEL BANGE
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: 
SHERRI L. GOLDEN
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 and Telecommunications
Line Extension Policy

Company: CSC TKR, LLC d/b/a Cablevision of Morris
Municipality: Borough of Netcong, County of Morris

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. $\frac{\text{\# of homes in extension}}{\text{mileage of extension}} = \text{homes per mile ("HPM") of extension}$
2. $\frac{\text{HPM of extension}}{\text{Minimum HPM that company actually constructs in the system*}} = \text{ratio of the density of the extension to the minimum density that the company constructs in the system ("A")}$
3. $\text{Total cost of building the extension times "A"} = \text{company's share of extension cost}$
4. $\text{Total cost of building extension less company's share of extension cost} = \text{total amount to be recovered from subscribers}$
5. $\frac{\text{Total amount to be recovered from subs}}{\text{Total subscribers in extension}} = \text{each subscriber's share}$

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 breakeven 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 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 thirty (30) days of such a request.
2. Begin construction within sixty (60) days of receipt of any deposit monies from potential subscribers.
3. Complete construction within six (6) 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 (5) years from the installation of the first dwelling unit in the extension, no further adjustments shall be made. Installations after five (5) 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.

APPENDIX "II"

CABLEVISION

COMMERCIAL LINE EXTENSION RATE POLICY

This Commercial Line Extension Rate Policy is applicable to commercial establishments only.

CABLEVISION

COMMERCIAL LINE EXTENSION RATE POLICY

1. Intent. It is the intent of CABLEVISION that a rate policy be established under which any businesses within the company's franchise areas would have the opportunity to obtain cable television service.

2. Applicability. This line extension rate shall apply to all cable television service extensions, aerial and underground, on public and private lands, provided by CABLEVISION.

3. Definitions.

(a) Line or Service. That situation where the company must extend its existing trunk line and/or distribution cable in order to make a tap available from which a drop line can be run so as to provide cable television service to the applicant's premises. The line or service extension shall include, but not be limited to, all poles, cables, amplifiers, extenders, splitters, taps, right-of-way acquisitions and clearing, trenching, backfilling and any other one-time costs incurred by CABLEVISION in connection with extending service to the applicant. A line or service extension shall not include facilities provided by CABLEVISION pursuant to its applicable installation rates then existing.

(b) Applicant. Any person, firm, corporation or association that applies to CABLEVISION for service to a commercial establishment in the franchise area.

(c) Commercial Establishment. Any building or structure, or portion thereof, not used for residential purposes including, but not limited to, profit and non-profit corporations or associations, which has requested the installation of cable television service requiring line or service extension as defined herein.

(d) Drop Line. That cable which connects the subscriber's television receiver to the cable transmission system by way of a tap.

(e) Tap. A connecting device inserted in the cable transmission line which allows for the connection of a drop line. An aerial or underground "drop line" constitutes a transmission cable running from the distribution or feeder cable to the subscriber's connection or receiver.

(f) Trunk Line. Transmission cable running from headend to trunk amplifiers and through each trunk amplifier in cascade in the system from which connections for distribution and feeder cable are provided.

(g) Distribution or Feeder Cable. Transmission cable which extends from the distribution amplifiers serving specific areas within the system and from which drop lines are extended.

(h) Qualified Subscriber. Any applicant who, as a potential subscriber, has committed to purchase at least the basic service from CABLEVISION for a period of not less than two (2) years.

4. Schedule.

(a) Within thirty (30) days after the date on which the service is requested, but not more than ninety (90) days from the date upon which the request for service was made, CABLEVISION shall furnish the applicant with (1) an estimate request form, (2) a copy of this line extension policy, and (3) notification that service can only be provided by means of a line or service extension.

(b) If the applicant requests a written estimate within thirty (30) days after being advised that service can only be provided by means of a line or service extension, CABLEVISION shall, within sixty (60) days of such request, furnish a written estimate, a construction schedule, and a service extension contract to be signed by the applicant.

(c) The applicant must return a signed service extension agreement within thirty (30) days after receipt of the material described in Paragraph (b) together with a check in the amount of \$50.00 representing a service extension deposit which will be credited against the applicant's contribution in aid of construction invoice to the applicant which must be signed and returned to CABLEVISION with the full payment before construction will commence.

(d) If the applicant fails to meet any of the applicable deadlines or any of the terms herein before set forth without the approval of CABLEVISION, any obligations pertaining to the proposed line or service extension shall cease and be of no further force or effect.

5. Commercial Line Extension Rate Charges.

A commercial establishment requesting line or service extension shall bear all of the following costs to make a tap available from which a drop line may be installed:

(a) The actual cost to CABLEVISION of materials and equipment necessary to make service available plus shipping charges and applicable taxes.

(b) The actual labor costs incurred by CABLEVISION, exclusive of benefits.

(c) The actual costs of designs, surveys, prints and engineering or other such labor involved in the preparation or actual construction required.

(d) The direct costs of any easements, make-ready or other third party actions required to perform and complete construction such as, but not limited to, power companies, telephone companies, road work, trenching or the like.

(e) In addition, the applicant shall pay to CABLEVISION a sum equal to twenty percent (20%) of the entire actual cost of construction as set forth above.

(f) In the event additional commercial subscribers come on-line in an area in which service extension has been provided in accordance herewith, each additional subscriber shall, in addition to the applicable installation rate, be required to contribute their pro-rata share of the original construction costs. Said pro-rata share shall be derived by dividing the original construction cost by the number of then existing on-line subscribers including the additional subscriber(s).

(g) Any funds collected from additional subscribers will be retained by CABLEVISION in an interest-bearing account and distributed equitably so as to equalize all subscriber construction contributions. Distribution will be made two (2) years after the original service extension was provided. After said two (2) year period, there shall be no further apportionment of the original construction cost.

6. Record Keeping and Annual Reports. CABLEVISION shall maintain appropriate records of its costs, subscriber and applicant billings, and revenues resulting from a request for or the construction of a service extension.

7. Ownership of Facilities. CABLEVISION shall own and maintain the facilities for which a service extension is made and any applicant-subscriber shall not acquire any interest herein.

8. Method of Service Extension. CABLEVISION reserves the right to provide either an aerial or underground service extension.

9. Term of Service. The minimum term of at least basic subscriber service for an applicant requesting service extension, or his successors and assigns, shall be twenty-four (24) months after the service extension has been energized. Said term shall be guaranteed by the applicant in the service extension contract specified in Paragraph 4(c) hereof.

IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED PETITION CSC TKR, LLC D/B/A CABLEVISION OF MORRIS FOR RENEWAL
OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE SYSTEM IN THE
BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DOCKET NO. CE23090680

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