



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

CABLE TELEVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF COMCAST)
OF MONMOUTH COUNTY, LLC FOR A RENEWAL) RENEWAL CERTIFICATE OF
CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TO CONTINUE TO) APPROVAL
OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION)
SYSTEM IN AND FOR THE CITY OF LONG)
BRANCH, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF)
NEW JERSEY) DOCKET NO. CE11030143

Parties of Record:

Dennis C. Linken, Esq., Scarinci & Hollenbeck, for the Petitioner

Kathy L Schmelz, City Clerk, City of Long Branch, New Jersey

BY THE BOARD:

On September 19, 1979, the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") granted Mid Jersey Cable TV Co., Inc. a Certificate of Approval in Docket No. 796C-6485 for the construction, operation and maintenance of a cable television system in the City of Long Branch ("City"). Through a series of transfers with required Board approvals, Comcast Cablevision of Monmouth County, Inc. ("Comcast") became the holder of the Certificate. On March 28, 1996, the Board granted Comcast a Renewal Certificate of Approval for the City in Docket No. CE95110531. Based on a name change, the current holder of the Certificate is Comcast of Monmouth County, LLC ("Petitioner"). Although by its terms the Petitioner's above referenced Certificate expired on September 19, 2009, the Petitioner is authorized to continue to provide cable television service to the City pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-25, pending disposition of proceedings regarding the renewal of its Certificate of Approval.

The Petitioner filed an application for the renewal of its municipal consent with the City on December 15, 2008, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-23 and N.J.A.C. 14:18-13.1 et seq. The City, after public hearing, adopted a municipal ordinance granting renewal consent to the Petitioner on January 25, 2011. On February 17, 2011, the Petitioner formally accepted the terms and conditions of the ordinance. On March 17, 2011, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-16, the Petitioner filed with the Board for a renewal of its Certificate of Approval for the City.

The Board has reviewed the application for municipal consent, the petition for a Renewal Certificate of Approval, and the municipal consent ordinance. 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 Renewal Certificate of Approval. Further, the City reviewed these qualifications in conjunction with the municipal consent process.
2. The design and technical specifications of the system will 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 15 years, with an automatic renewal provision for a term of ten years thereafter in conformance with N.J.S.A. 48:5A-19 and N.J.S.A. 48:5A-25. The Board finds these periods to be reasonable.
- 5 The City may review the performance of the Petitioner with regard to the ordinance at its discretion. If the City determines that the Petitioner has failed to substantially comply with the material terms and conditions of the ordinance, the City 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 City 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 City. 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 franchise fee to be paid to the City 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 City, 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.

9. The Petitioner shall provide service to any person's residence or business located in the Primary Service Area as indicated on the map on file with the Office of Cable Television at no cost beyond standard and non-standard installation charges. For any extension outside of the Primary Service Area, the Petitioner shall utilize the line extension policy ("LEP") attached to the Certificate. The minimum homes per mile figure is 35.
10. 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 currently maintains a system-wide public access channel, a shared governmental access channel on which the City's municipal access programming is aired and a dedicated educational access channel for Brookdale Community College.
11. Within 12 months of issuance of this Certificate, the Petitioner shall provide the City with a dedicated educational access channel. Upon completion, the Petitioner shall provide the Office of Cable Television proof of satisfaction of this obligation.
12. Within 12 months of issuance of this Certificate, the Petitioner shall pay the City a one-time technology grant in the amount of \$70,000.00. Upon payment, the Petitioner shall provide the Office of Cable Television with proof of satisfaction of this obligation.
13. The Petitioner shall provide one standard installation and monthly Total Preferred cable television service on one outlet, free of charge, to each school in the City, public and private, elementary, intermediate and secondary. To qualify for free installation, the facility must be within 175 feet of the Petitioner's active cable television plant. Each additional outlet installed, if any, shall be paid for on a materials plus labor basis by the school requesting the installation. Monthly service charges shall be waived on additional outlets.
14. The Petitioner shall provide one standard installation and monthly Total Preferred cable television service on one outlet, free of charge, to each police, fire, emergency management facility and public library in the City. To qualify for free installation, the facility must be within 175 feet of the Petitioner's active cable television plant. Each additional outlet installed, if any, shall be paid for on a materials plus labor basis by the City. Monthly service charges shall be waived on additional outlets.

It is noted here that the City's municipal consent ordinance does not contain a provision for a local office, as required by N.J.S.A. 48:5A-26(d), which specifically states, "A municipal consent ... issued pursuant to [the Cable Television Act] shall require that the CATV company to which it is issued shall maintain local business offices or agents, for the purpose of receiving, investigating and resolving all complaints regarding the quality of service, equipment malfunctions, and similar matters."

On May 26, 2011, Board staff sent a letter to the City recommending that it amend its municipal consent ordinance to include a provision for a local office or agent, which letter copied the Petitioner. Response was requested by June 23, 2011. Neither the City nor the Petitioner

responded. Also, Board staff on several occasions inquired whether the Petitioner objected to an alteration to the municipal consent or franchise as follows: "The Petitioner shall maintain a local business office for the purpose of receiving, investigating and resolving complaints. Currently, the local business office serving this provision is located at 403 South Street, Eatontown, New Jersey." Board Staff received no response from the Petitioner, however.

While the Board cannot compel a municipality to amend its municipal consent ordinance, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-25, "[a] municipal consent issued pursuant to this act shall conform in form and substance to all requirements of this act and of rules, regulations and orders duly promulgated by the director."

Since the City's municipal consent ordinance is not in compliance with the Cable Television Act, the Board finds, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-47, that the franchise should be amended to reference that the Petitioner must maintain a local office or agent, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:5A-26(d). As provided by N.J.S.A. 48:5A-47:

The board may, after affording the holder an opportunity to be heard, revoke, suspend or alter any certificate of approval or franchise for the violation of any provisions of [the Cable Television Act] or the rules, regulations or orders made under the authority of [the Cable Television Act], or for other reasonable cause, upon a finding that the revocation, suspension or alteration will not adversely affect the public interest in the provision of safe, adequate and proper cable television service in this State.

Therefore, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-47, finding that the municipal consent is not in compliance with the Cable Television Act (N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.) and that such alteration will not adversely affect the public interest, the Board **FINDS** and **ORDERS** that the following provision shall be added to the franchise:

The Petitioner shall maintain a local business office for the purpose of receiving, investigating and resolving complaints. Currently, the local business office serving this provision is located at 403 South Street, Eatontown, New Jersey.

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 et seq., except as modified above, 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 or federal law as preconditions for engaging in the proposed cable television operations, that 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 is capable of providing the proposed service in a safe, adequate and proper manner.

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

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 contained shall be adhered to and enforceable unless 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 September 19, 2024.

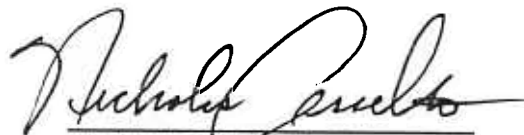
DATED: 11/9/11

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:


LEE A. SOLOMON
PRESIDENT

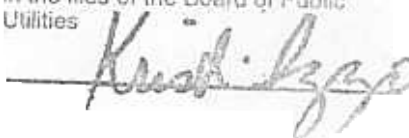

JEANNE M. FOX
COMMISSIONER


JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
COMMISSIONER


NICHOLAS ASSELTA
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO
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 MONMOUTH COUNTY, LLC
CITY OF LONG BRANCH

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.

SERVICE LIST

COMCAST OF MONMOUTH COUNTY, LLC
RENEWAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL
CITY OF LONG BRANCH
DOCKET NO. CE11030143

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