

# HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP

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REC'D

February 19, 2014

2014 FEB 24 AM 10 53

Via Regular Mail & E-mail  
board.secretary@trenton.state.nj.us

**CASE MANAGEMENT**  
New Jersey Bd. of Public Utilities  
Secretary  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
Post Office Box 350  
Trenton NJ 08625-0350

2014 FEB 24 PM 10 48  
OFFICE OF  
CASE MANAGEMENT  
FORWARDING  
NJ BPU

RE: IN THE MATTER OF VERIZON NEW JERSEY, INC.'S ALLEGED FAILURE TO  
COMPLY WITH OPPORTUNITY NEW JERSEY COMMITMENTS  
DOCKET NO.: T012020155

Dear Ms. Izzo:

We ask that the Board please consider the following comments of Hopewell Township in Cumberland County to the proposed Stipulation of Agreement between Board Staff and Verizon New Jersey relating to alternate plan for regulation ("PAR-2") and Verizon's compliance with Opportunity New Jersey ("ONJ").

In the Stipulation of Settlement, Verizon proposes, under the "BFRR" process, to make broadband service available to

"A minimum of thirty-five (35) single-line or business or residential customers (in any combination) located in a Census Tract..."

Hopewell Township in Cumberland County is a mostly rural community with a large amount of preserved open space, a large Agri-business farming community, a relatively compact residential area bordering the City of Bridgeton and a business corridor, along State Highway 49, between the City of Bridgeton and Shiloh Borough.

Hopewell Township shares a Census Tract with neighboring Shiloh Borough. The population of Shiloh Borough is approximately 500 individuals which Shiloh has roughly 10 businesses. The population of Hopewell Township in Cumberland County is roughly 4600 individuals plus roughly 300 businesses of which 192 are farms engaged in Agri-business. Agriculture is Hopewell's core business sector. It provides sustenance that every resident of our state needs to survive.

Information recently assembled by Hopewell Township's Economic Development Committee indicates that only 30 percent of Hopewell non-farm businesses and only 20 percent of Hopewell Agri-business farms presently have broadband service. Meanwhile, only 40 percent of Hopewell households have broadband service.

*Samuel J. Izzo*

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The proposed Verizon extension of broadband service to a minimum of only 35 single line customers in the entire Hopewell-Shiloh Census Tract, amounts to less than a drop in the bucket.

Without high speed internet, Hopewell citizens and particularly the Hopewell Township Agri-business community are unable to comply with Federal and State requirements calling for online submission of reports, tax returns, time sensitive financial filings and the like.

A majority of Hopewell households, including the children living in those homes, are being deprived the same opportunities afforded to most other New Jersey children because of the present unavailability of broadband internet access.

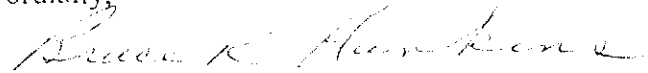
Hopewell Township is, in effect, being penalized because it has taken appropriate measures to insure that urban sprawl never engulfs our township.

Under PAR-1, the citizens and elected officials of Hopewell Township expected to have broadband service throughout the Township by the end of 2010. Obviously, this has not occurred and Verizon doesn't seem to be anxious to fulfill its earlier pledge to make fiber optic service available to every home and business in the State.

It is imperative to the academic and economic competitiveness of Hopewell's children, Hopewell's households and Hopewell's Agri-business farms that Verizon be required to promptly implement full deployment of broadband service throughout Hopewell Township.

Hopewell Township in Cumberland County respectfully requests relief through the Board of Public Utilities to address the needs of our community by mandating deployment of modern technology to the residents and businesses of Hopewell Township who are doing their part to maintain open space and to provide food for the other residents of this state.

Cordially,



BRUCE R. HANKINS

Mayor, Hopewell Township

BRH:mdy

cc: Will Daddario, Clerk

Barb Stratton

Senator Jeff Van Drew

New Jersey State League of Municipalities

Attn: Edward W. Purcell, Associate Legal Counsel

Salmon Ventures