



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

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NJ BPU ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HEARINGS ON EFFECTS OF SYSTEMWIDE FRANCHISE ON NJ CABLE TELEVISION MARKET

(NEWARK, NJ) – The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) today announced a series of three public hearings throughout the state to assess the effects of the system-wide franchise on the New Jersey cable television market.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-25.2(d), the BPU is required to convene proceedings within 36 months after the entry of the system-wide franchisees to examine the effects on New Jersey's cable television market and report back to the legislature within six months of the proceedings. Verizon of New Jersey, Inc., was granted the first system-wide franchise on December 18, 2006. The BPU is therefore required to commence hearings by December 19, 2009, and a report will be due to the Governor, Senate and General Assembly no later than June 2, 2010.

Three hearings will be held in three areas of the state:

Central

Date: December 22, 2009
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Middlesex County Administration Building
Freeholders' Meeting Room, 1st Floor
John F. Kennedy Square
New Brunswick, New Jersey

South

Date: December 8, 2009
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Cherry Hill Municipal Building
Council Chambers, Room 2008
820 Mercer Street
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

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North

Date: December 10, 2009
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Board of Public Utilities
Board Hearing Room, 8th Floor
Two Gateway Center
Newark, New Jersey

Public comment period will be open from December 8, 2009, through January 22, 2010. Written comments may be submitted to Celeste M. Fasone, Director, Office of Cable Television, 2 Gateway Center, 8th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to swfcomments@bpu.state.nj.us. Comments will only be accepted during the comment period.

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About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU):

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities is a state agency and regulatory authority mandated to ensure safe, adequate, and proper utility services at reasonable rates for New Jersey customers. Critical services regulated by the NJBPU include natural gas, electricity, water, wastewater, telecommunications and cable television. The Board has general oversight responsibility for monitoring utility service, responding to consumer complaints, and investigating utility accidents. To find out more about the NJBPU, visit our web site at www.nj.gov/bpu.