



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

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT APPLICATION OF)
VERIZON NEW JERSEY, INC. AND RCLEC, INC. FOR)
APPROVAL OF AN ADOPTION OF AN)
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT UNDER SECTION)
252(E) OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF)
1996) DOCKET NO. TO14020166

Parties of Record:

Gregory M. Romano, for Verizon New Jersey, Inc.
Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel
John Marlow, for RCLEC, Inc.

BY THE BOARD:

By letter dated February 19, 2014, Verizon New Jersey Inc. ("Verizon") and RCLEC, Inc. ("RCLEC") (jointly, the Parties), pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, P.L. 104 104, 110 Stat. 56 (codified in scattered sections of 47 U.S.C. § 151 et seq.) (the Act), submitted to the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") a joint application ("Application") for approval of a negotiated interconnection agreement, dated January 6, 2014 ("Agreement"). Verizon is an incumbent local exchange carrier as defined by the Act with the duty to negotiate interconnection agreements pursuant to Section 252 of the Act. See 47 U.S.C. § 251(c) and § 251(h)(1).

RCLEC has exercised its rights under Section 252(i) of the Act to opt into an interconnection agreement previously approved by the Board between Verizon and Princeton Hosted Solutions, LLC.

The Agreement sets forth the terms, conditions and prices under which Verizon will offer and provide access to unbundled network elements, ancillary services, and wholesale telecommunications services available for resale to RCLEC. The Agreement is in effect until September 30, 2014, and thereafter as noted in the Agreement continue in full force and effect unless terminated as provided in the Agreement.

The New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") recommends that the Board approve the Agreement subject to conditions. The Board finds that Rate Counsel's objections to certain provisions of the Agreement are without merit, and accordingly, the Board declines to make modifications to the Agreement. See Order, I/M/O the Joint Application of Verizon New Jersey, Inc. and Ernest Communications, Inc. For Approval of an Interconnection Agreement Under Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Docket No. TO02050287, dated September 18, 2002 (rejecting Rate Counsel's recommendation that Condition 3 of the Pricing Section of the Agreement is inconsistent with Federal Communications Commission rules).

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(a)(1), an incumbent local exchange carrier may negotiate and enter into a binding interconnection agreement with a carrier requesting interconnection, service or network elements. In addition, 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(1) requires approval by the Board of any interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation or arbitration, and further requires the Board to approve or reject the Agreement, with written findings as to any deficiencies. The Act provides that the Board may reject a negotiated agreement only if it finds that: (i) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or (ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. [47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A)].

The Board's review of the Agreement and the record in this matter indicates that the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity, and that the Agreement does not discriminate against telecommunications carriers not parties to the Agreement. Therefore, the Board **FINDS** that the Agreement meets the standards set forth in the Act, and **HEREBY APPROVES** the Agreement as presented by the Parties. This approval should not be construed as preapproval of any future petitions for rate recovery of costs incurred pursuant to the Agreement, nor shall the Board be bound by any provisions within the Agreement including provisions regarding the confidentiality of information.

The Board notes that amendments or modifications to Board approved interconnection agreements are subject to Board review and approval. No agreement shall be read, nor does the Board believe the Parties to the Agreement intend that it be read, to limit the authority of the Board under Section 252(e) of the Act to review interconnection agreements. Accordingly, until and unless otherwise provided by the Board, subsequent amendments or modifications to the Agreement approved herein shall be subject to review and approval by the Board.

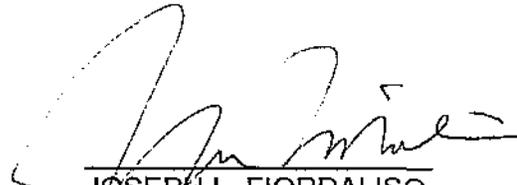
This Order shall be effective July 30, 2014.

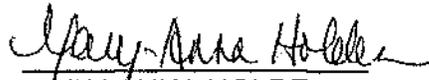
DATED: 7/23/14

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:


DIANNE SOLOMON
PRESIDENT


JEANNE M. FOX
COMMISSIONER


JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
COMMISSIONER


MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
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



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AGREEMENT UNDER SECTION 252(E) OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996
DOCKET NO. TO14020166

SERVICE LIST

Gregory M. Romano, Esq.
General Counsel
Verizon New Jersey, Inc.
Mid-Atlantic Region
One Verizon Way, VC54S204
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

John Marlow
RCLEC Inc.
1400 Fashion Island Blvd., 7th Floor
San Mateo, CA 94404

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director
Division of Rate Counsel
140 Front Street, 4th Floor
Post Office Box 003
Trenton, NJ 08625-0003

Christopher White, Esq.
Division of Rate Counsel
140 Front Street, 4th Floor
Post Office Box 003
Trenton, NJ 08625-0003

Maria Novas-Ruiz, Esq.
Division of Rate Counsel
140 Front Street, 4th Floor
Post Office Box 003
Trenton, NJ 08625-0003

Alex Moreau, Esq.
Deputy Attorney General
Department of Law & Public Safety
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street
Post Office Box 45029
Newark, NJ 07101-45029

John Deluca, Acting Director
Division of Telecommunications
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Jimarli Figueiredo
Division of Telecommunications
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Carol Artale, Esq.
Counsel's Office
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350