



Agenda Date: 9/22/17  
Agenda Item: IIIA

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Board of Public Utilities**  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 314  
Post Office Box 350  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350  
[www.nj.gov/bpu/](http://www.nj.gov/bpu/)

OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION &  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IN THE MATTER OF CABLEVISION OF )  
ROCKLAND/RAMAPO, LLC FOR THE RENEWAL ) SYSTEM-WIDE CABLE TELEVISION  
OF ITS SYSTEM-WIDE CABLE TELEVISION ) FRANCHISE RENEWAL  
FRANCHISE ) DOCKET NO. CE17040432

**Parties of Record:**

**Robert Hoch, Counsel**, Local Government & Regulatory Affairs, Altice USA, for Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC  
**Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director**, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

**BY THE BOARD:**

On December 16, 2010, the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") issued an order memorializing the conversion by Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC of its municipal consent-based franchise in the Borough of Montvale to a System-wide Cable Television Franchise, in Docket No. CE10090684. The Borough is the only municipality in the Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC System-wide Cable Television Franchise. On May 26, 2016, in Docket No. CM15111255, the Board approved the merger of Altice, USA and Cablevision Systems Corporation, the parent of Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC. Altice is obligated to abide by all commitments under Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC's franchise agreements. Although by its terms, Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC's System-wide Cable Television Franchise expired on September 17, 2017, it is authorized to continue to provide cable television service, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-14.18(e).

**BACKGROUND**

On October 7, 2014, the Board notified Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC of its intention to review its performance under its System-wide Cable Television Franchise pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 546, N.J.S.A. 48:5A-19(b) and N.J.A.C. 14:18-14.16. On September 13, 2016, the Board invited Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC to file comments on its performance under its System-wide Cable Television Franchise and to assess how it will meet the future needs of the communities listed in its franchise application. Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC filed its

Initial Comments with the Board on December 21, 2016. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-14.17, on January 25, 2017, the Board issued a report ("Ascertainment Report") on Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC's performance under its System-wide Cable Television Franchise and the future system-wide cable television franchise needs of the State and the Borough of Montvale under the system-wide cable television franchise.

On April 26, 2017, Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC filed for renewal of its System-wide Cable Television Franchise, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-19 and N.J.A.C. 14:18-14.18. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-14.3, the Board was required to hold two public hearings in this matter, which were held on July 20, 2017 in the Borough of Montvale,<sup>1</sup> at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Written comments were accepted between July 20, 2017 and August 21, 2017.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

At the hearings, the public was invited to provide oral and/or written comment on the application, and the hearings were transcribed by a court reporter, with the transcripts included in the record of this matter. There were no public commenters. At both hearings, the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") noted the highlights of Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC's application and stated that it would provide written comments to the Board regarding the application and the issuance of the Renewal System-wide Cable Television Franchise. On July 28, 2017, Rate Counsel filed a letter with the Board stating that it had reviewed the application and supporting documentation and did not oppose Board approval of Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC's application for a Renewal System-wide Cable Television Franchise. No other written comments were received.

### **DISCUSSION**

In 2006, the Legislature passed amendments to the State Cable Act which allowed Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC to apply for and receive a System-wide Cable Television Franchise from the Board (P.L. 2006, c. 83). The Legislature articulated certain restrictions and preconditions the Board could consider prior to approving any system-wide cable television franchise applicant. The Board is bound by the enabling statute and the adopted rules for application and enforcement.

In determining whether to issue Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC a renewal of its System-wide Cable Television Franchise, the Board may only consider that which is allowed by the State Cable Act, which provides, at N.J.S.A. 48:5A-16(f), that "[i]n determining whether a system-wide cable television franchise should be issued, the board shall consider only the requirements of sections 17 and 28 of P.L. 1972, c.186 (C. 48:5A-17 and C. 48:5A-28)."

N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17 permits the Board to issue a system-wide cable television franchise following its review of the application, where it finds the applicant has complied or is ready, willing and able to comply with all applicable rules and regulations imposed or pursuant to State or federal law as preconditions for providing cable television service. N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28 sets forth the elements in the application for a system-wide cable television franchise and the required

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<sup>1</sup> N.J.S.A. 48:5A-16(f) requires the Board to hold two hearings on a system-wide cable television franchise application in different geographical areas of the State. However, as the Borough of Montvale is the only municipality subject to this franchise determination, the hearings were held in the Borough of Montvale.

commitments of a system-wide cable television franchise applicant. The Board's review of the application makes it clear that Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC's application satisfies the requirements set forth by the Legislature.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based upon these findings, the Board **HEREBY CONCLUDES** that, pursuant to the System-wide Cable Television Franchise Act and the Cable Television Act, Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC has complied or is ready 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 Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC 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, Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC is **HEREBY ISSUED** this Renewal System-wide Cable Television Franchise, for a period of seven years, as evidence of Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC's authority to operate a cable television system within the jurisdiction set forth in its application, subject to the following conditions:

1. All of the commitments, statements and promises contained in the application for renewal of this System-wide Cable Television Franchise and any amendments thereto submitted in writing to the Board, except as modified herein, are hereby adopted and binding upon Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC as terms and conditions of this Renewal System-wide Cable Television Franchise, and included as conditions as if fully set forth herein. The application and any other relevant writings submitted by Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC shall be considered a part of this System-wide Cable Television Franchise and made part hereof by reference.
2. In the Borough of Montvale, Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC shall provide service to all residents at no cost beyond standard and non-standard installation rates, contained in its schedule of prices, rates, terms and conditions on file with the Board. Businesses shall be constructed in accordance with Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC's commercial line extension policy attached to this order as Appendix "I."
3. Under N.J.A.C. 14:18-5.1(a), Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC shall maintain a local business office where applications for service, complaints, service inquiries, bill payments, and so forth will be received. Currently, Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC maintains a local office at: 40 Potash Road, Oakland, New Jersey. Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC shall maintain its local office in accordance with applicable law.
4. The designated complaint officer for all municipalities in Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC's System-wide Cable Television Franchise, currently only the Borough of Montvale, is the Office of Cable Television. All complaints shall be received and processed in accordance with applicable rules.

5. Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC shall pay a franchise fee to the Borough of Montvale in the amount of 3.5% of its gross revenues, as defined by N.J.S.A. 48:5A-3(x) and -30(d), paid by subscribers in the municipality.
6. Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC shall pay to the State Treasurer, in accordance with its CATV Universal Access Fund now existing or as will exist in the future, an amount of up to 0.5% of its gross revenues, as defined by N.J.S.A. 48:5A-3(x) and -30(d), paid by subscribers in the municipality.
7. Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC shall maintain an informational schedule of prices, rates, terms and conditions for unregulated service and promptly file any revisions thereto. Rate and channel line-up changes shall be performed in accordance with applicable rules.
8. Upon written request of a municipality served by its System-wide Cable Television Franchise, currently only the Borough of Montvale, Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC shall provide and maintain a return line or other method of interconnection from any one location in the municipality, without charge, to a location of interconnection in its cable television system in order to allow live or taped cablecasting of PEG access programming by the municipality. The return line or interconnection shall be provided in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:18-15.4(c). Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC shall continue to provide and maintain any return line already provided.
9. Upon written request of a municipality served by its System-wide Cable Television Franchise, currently only the Borough of Montvale, Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC shall provide and maintain up to two PEG access channels. If a municipality requests more than two PEG access channels, the municipality shall demonstrate the need for the additional PEG access channels in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:18-15.4(a)1. The municipality shall assume all responsibility for the management, operations and programming of the PEG access channel(s) in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:18-15.4(a)4.
10. Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC shall continue to provide equipment and training for any municipality covered by its system-wide cable television franchise without charge, for use in the development of local programming content that can be shown on PEG access channels. Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC currently maintains a studio location at 352 Central Avenue, Newark, New Jersey. Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC provides equipment and training at the access studio upon request.
11. Upon written request of a municipality served by its System-wide Cable Television Franchise, currently only the Borough of Montvale, Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC shall install and maintain, without charge, one service outlet activated for basic cable television service and Internet service to each fire station, public school, police station, public library and any other such building used for municipal purposes, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:18-15.5.
12. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-14.2, Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC shall maintain sufficient bond for the faithful performance of all undertakings by the

applicant as represented in the application; and shall have sufficient insurance including the Board, all municipalities served and the applicant as insureds, with respect to all liability for any death, personal injury, property damage or other liability arising out of the applicant's construction and operation of its cable television system.

13. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(n), Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC shall continue to comply with any applicable consumer protection requirements.

This Renewal System-wide Cable Television Franchise 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. Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC shall adhere to the applicable 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 Renewal System-wide Cable Television Franchise.

Failure to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations and orders of the Board or the 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 Renewal System-wide Cable Television Franchise.

This Renewal System-wide Cable Television Franchise is issued on the representation that the statements contained in Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC's application are true, and the undertakings therein contained shall be adhered to and be enforceable unless specific waiver is granted by the Board or the Office of Cable Television pursuant to the authority contained in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.

Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo, LLC's Renewal System-wide Cable Television Franchise shall expire on September 17, 2024.

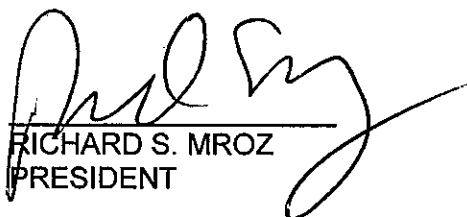
This Order shall be effective on October 2, 2017.

DATED: 9/22/17

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:



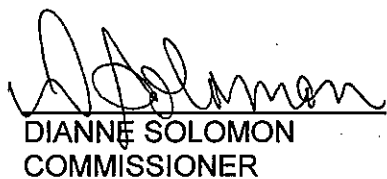
JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO  
COMMISSIONER



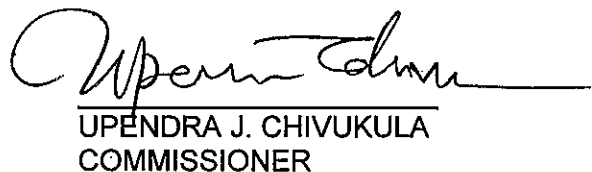
RICHARD S. MROZ  
PRESIDENT



MARY-ANNA HOLDEN  
COMMISSIONER

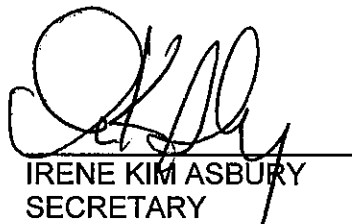


DIANNE SOLOMON  
COMMISSIONER



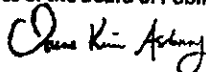
UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA  
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



IRENE KIM ASBURY  
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"**  
**CABLEVISION OF ROCKLAND/RAMAPO, LLC**  
**SYSTEM-WIDE CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE**

**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 years after the original service extension was provided. After said two 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 CABLEVISION OF ROCKLAND/RAMAPO, LLC  
FOR THE RENEWAL OF ITS SYSTEM-WIDE CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE  
DOCKET NO. CE17040432

SERVICE LIST

Sidney A. Sayovitz, Esq.  
Schenck, Price, Smith & King  
Post Office Box 991  
Florham Park, NJ 07932-0991  
[sas@spsk.com](mailto:sas@spsk.com)

Robert Hoch, Counsel  
Local Government & Regulatory Affairs  
Alice USA  
1111 Stewart Avenue  
Bethpage, NY 11714  
[rhoch@cablevision.com](mailto:rhoch@cablevision.com)

Veronica Beke  
Deputy Attorney General  
Department of Law & Public Safety  
Division of Law  
124 Halsey Street  
Post Office Box 45029  
Newark, NJ 07101-45029  
[veronica.beke@law.njoag.gov](mailto:veronica.beke@law.njoag.gov)

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director  
Division of Rate Counsel  
140 East Front Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Post Office Box 003  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0003  
[sbrand@rpa.state.nj.us](mailto:sbrand@rpa.state.nj.us)

Carol Artale, Esq.  
Legal Specialist  
Board of Public Utilities  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 314  
Post Office Box 350  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350  
[carol.artale@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:carol.artale@bpu.nj.gov)

Lawanda R. Gilbert, Director  
Board of Public Utilities  
Office of Cable Television &  
Telecommunications  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 314  
Post Office Box 350  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350  
[lawanda.gilbert@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:lawanda.gilbert@bpu.nj.gov)

Karen A. Marlowe  
Administrative Analyst 4  
Board of Public Utilities  
Office of Cable Television &  
Telecommunications  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 314  
Post Office Box 350  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350  
[karen.marlowe@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:karen.marlowe@bpu.nj.gov)