



Agenda Date: 10/28/21
Agenda Item: IVA

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IN THE MATTER OF VERIZON NEW JERSEY'S)
LETTER FILING FOR TARIFF REVISIONS TO) ORDER
WITHDRAW FEATURE GROUP A SERVICE IN)
CERTAIN WIRE CENTERS IN NEW JERSEY) DOCKET NO. TT19010137

Parties of Record:

Sylvia Del Vecchio, Manager, State Government Relations, on behalf of Petitioners
Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Acting Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

By letter dated January 28, 2019, Verizon New Jersey, Inc. ("Verizon" or "Company") filed a letter with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") to withdraw Feature Group A service in 39 wire centers in the State of New Jersey, which have undergone network transition from copper to fiber facilities. Alternative services are available over an upgraded all fiber-based platforms.

Feature Group A service provides access to the Company's network through a subscriber line connection rather than a trunk line. The service is primarily used for exchange access crossing State and/or a Local Access and Transport Areas ("LATAs"), and supports Verizon's initiative to update selective centers to the next-generation platforms and all-fiber facilities consistent with the rules established by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") in an order dated November 29, 2017¹.

In the FCC Order, the FCC concluded that consumers are increasingly moving away from traditional telephone services provided over copper wires and towards next-generation technologies using a variety of transmission means, including copper, fiber, and wireless spectrum-based services. To that end, the FCC adopted a number of reforms aimed at removing unnecessary regulatory barriers to the deployment of next-generation networks by removing unnecessary impediments and streamlining the transition.

¹ *In the Matter of Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment*, WC Docket No. 17-84 ("FCC Order")

Verizon's filing indicates notification of the service withdrawal to its customers by mail (a copy of the customer letter was provided with the filing). In addition, the filing states that affected customers will receive an additional letter at least 90 days prior to service withdrawal. The letter gives customers time to make arrangements to either migrate to an alternative service offered by Verizon, or to other providers offering alternative services. Verizon will continue to withdraw Feature Group A service from other wire centers once fiber deployment is completed. Currently, there are 2 customers with Feature Group A in the disconnect centers that are yet to be completely built. Verizon represents that services will not be disconnected until work is completed and customers will be given 90 days' notice before the service is discontinued.

The New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel submitted comments by letter dated May 10, 2021, and stated that it does not oppose Board approval of the tariff revisions proposed by Verizon.

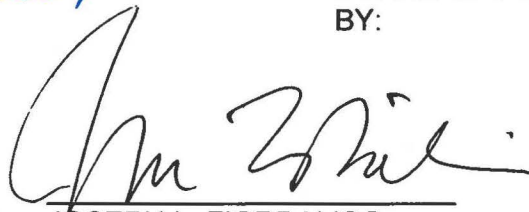
DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

Accordingly, the Board **FINDS** that the proposed tariff changes are in the public interest. Therefore, after investigation, having considered the record submitted by Verizon, the Board **HEREBY AUTHORIZES** Verizon to effectuate the tariff changes proposed by Verizon.

The effective date of this Order is November 4, 2021.

DATED: *October 28, 2021*

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



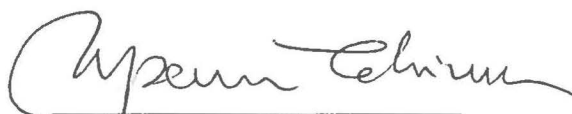
JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
PRESIDENT



MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER




DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER



UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
COMMISSIONER



ROBERT M. GORDON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: 

AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

IN THE MATTER OF VERIZON NEW JERSEY'S LETTER FILING FOR TARIFF REVISIONS
TO WITHDRAW FEATURE GROUP A SERVICE IN CERTAIN WIRE CENTERS IN
NEW JERSEY

DOCKET NO. TT19010137

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