



Agenda Date: 8/17/22
Agenda Item: IVD

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, INC -) ORDER
SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICES, 2ND REVISED)
PAGE, NJ BPU NO. 6, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 21,)
2021) DOCKET NO. TT21091139

Parties of Record:

Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel
Sylvia Del Vecchio, Manager, State Government Relations, Verizon New Jersey, Inc.

BY THE BOARD:¹

On September 22, 2021, Verizon New Jersey, Inc. (“Verizon”), filed a letter petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) seeking approval of a tariff revision to discontinue Intra-State Switched and Special Access private line Digital Signal Level 0 (“DS0”) services (“Legacy Services”) in the Bridgeton, Clifton, Closter, Dumont, Kearny, Millington, Mount Holly, Neptune, Nutley, Seaside Park, and Vineland wire centers (“Affected Wire Centers”) (“Filing”). In its Filing, Verizon represented that the discontinuance of the Legacy Services supports its initiative to update select wire centers to next-generation platforms and all-fiber facilities with upgraded equipment.

Verizon’s filing is based upon the Federal Communications Commission’s (“FCC”) Order released on November 29, 2017, wherein it concluded that consumers are increasingly moving away from traditional telephone services provided over copper wires and instead are using next-generation technologies through a variety of transmission mediums, including copper, fiber, and wireless spectrum-based services.² The Order stated that access to high-speed broadband is an essential component of modern life that provides unconstrained access to information and entertainment, unprecedented economic opportunities and offers an open channel of communication. Therefore, the FCC adopted a number of reforms aimed at removing unnecessary regulatory barriers to the deployment of next-generation networks by eliminating unnecessary impediments including

¹ Commissioner Zenon Christodoulou abstained from voting on this matter.

² In re Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WC Docket No. 17-84, Adopted: November 16, 2017, Released: November 29, 2017 (“FCC Order”).

modifying pole attachment rules, changing the process for retiring copper facilities, and streamlining the regulatory process to discontinue legacy services. Additionally, the FCC modified its rules to prevent the enforcement of state and local laws that inhibit broadband deployment, as well as clarified a legal interpretation relied on by carriers to alter or discontinue a service.

DS0 services are the lowest level signal in the time division hierarchy and represents voice grade channels operating at 64 kbps or less. Verizon is seeking to discontinue these services in order to provide next generation networks consistent with the FCC Order. Verizon intends to streamline the transition to alternative solutions, such as fiber-based voice services, FiOS TV services, Internet Services, Switched Ethernet Service or Private Internet Protocol Service, Digital Signal Level 1 (“DS1”) Service or VoIP Services including Business Digital Voice (BDV) or Virtual Communication Express (VCE).

On September 9, 2019, pursuant to 47 CFR § 51.325 through 51.335, Verizon posted on its website a public notice of copper retirement listing with the names and addresses of the Affected Wire Centers noted in the Filing. Thereafter, on September 22, 2021, pursuant to 47 CFR § 51.333, Verizon sent letters to customers in the Affected Wire Centers informing them of the upgrades to Verizon’s network to next-generation, all-fiber facilities. The September 22, 2021 notification letter also advises customers that Verizon would provide subsequent notice at least 90 days in advance of the actual date that their services would be disconnected. Verizon further notified the affected customers that any modifications in service offerings for customers with existing contracts would be subject to the terms of their contract, including any tariff or product-guide provisions incorporated into the contract.

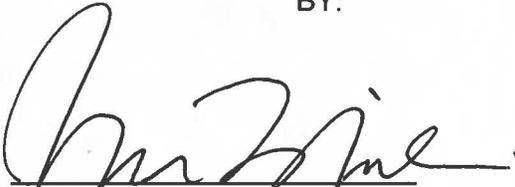
DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The Board has reviewed the Filing and supporting documents submitted by Verizon and **FINDS** that the proposed tariff changes are consistent with applicable law and in the public interest. The Board further **FINDS** that Verizon has complied with the notice requirements to customers established by the FCC. Therefore, the Board **HEREBY AUTHORIZES** Verizon to effectuate the tariff changes to discontinue Legacy Services in the Affected Wire Centers in order to upgrade these systems to next-generation platforms.

This Order shall be effective August 24, 2022.

DATED: August 17, 2022

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
PRESIDENT



MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER



DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER



ROBERT M. GORDON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: 

CARMEN D. DIAZ
ACTING 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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REVISED PAGE, NJ BPU NO. 6, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 21, 2021 DOCKET NO.
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SERVICE LIST

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