

**TELEVISION** 

# 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 THE APPLICATION FOR	)	SYSTEM-WIDE CABLE TEL
RENEWAL OF A SYSTEM-WIDE CABLE	)	FRANCHISE RENEWAL
TELEVISION FRANCHISE FOR CABLEVISION	)	
OF OAKLAND, LLC	)	<b>DOCKET NO. CE23120919</b>

### Parties of Record:

**Vaughn Parchment, Esq.,** Norris McLaughlin, P.A., on behalf of Cablevision of Oakland, LLC **Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director**, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

### BY THE BOARD:

On December 27, 2023, Cablevision of Oakland, LLC ("Cablevision of Oakland" or "Petitioner") filed an application with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") for the renewal of a system-wide cable television franchise for its current system-wide franchise serving 39 municipalities, and to extend its service territory to provide cable television service to the Township of Montclair ("Montclair")<sup>1</sup> and the Township of West Orange ("West Orange")<sup>2</sup> (collectively,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC currently serves Montclair as the incumbent provider under its Cable Television Franchise previously approved by the Board. See In re the Petition of Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC. for a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Continue to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Cable Television System in the Township of Montclair, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, BPU Docket No. CE08110968, Order dated February 25, 2009. The Board previously approved a System-Wide Cable Television Franchise for Verizon New Jersey Inc. in the Montclair, which was renewed on December 16, 2020 and expires on December 18, 2027. See In re the Application of Verizon New Jersey, Inc., for Renewal of a System-Wide Cable Television Franchise, BPU Docket No. CE20080516, Order dated December 16, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC currently serves West Orange as the incumbent provider under its Cable Television Franchise previously approved by the Board. See In re the Petition of Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC. for a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Continue to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Cable Television System in and for the Township of West Orange, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, BPU Docket No. CE10030215, Order dated June 7, 2010. The Board previously approved a System-Wide Cable Television Franchise for Verizon New Jersey Inc.in the Township of West Orange, which was renewed on December 16, 2020 and expires on December 18, 2027. See In re the Application of Verizon New Jersey, Inc., for Renewal of a System-Wide Cable Television Franchise, BPU Docket No. CE20080516, Order dated December 16, 2020.

"Townships") pursuant to P.L. 2006, c. 83 ("System-wide Cable Television Franchise Act" or "Act"), which modified the existing state Cable Television Act ("CATV Act"), N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq., to allow for competitive system-wide franchises.

# **BACKGROUND**

On July 1, 2009, the Board issued an order memorializing the conversion by Cablevision of Oakland of its municipal consent-based franchise in the Township of Cedar Grove to a System-wide Cable Television Franchise in Docket No. CE09030231, for a term of seven (7) years to expire on March 20, 2016. Cablevision of Oakland has added an additional 38 municipalities to its System-wide Cable Television Franchise.<sup>3</sup> On March 18, 2016, the Board issued a Renewal System-wide Cable Television Franchise to Cablevision, for a term of seven (7) years which expired on March 20, 2023, in BPU Docket No. CE15111317. Thereafter, on December 19, 2017, the Board issued an Order of Amendment of the March 18, 2016 Order to include one additional municipality. A list of the current 39 municipalities included in Cablevision of Oakland's System-wide Cable Television Franchise is attached as Appendix "I".

On August 26, 2020 Cablevision of Oakland notified the Board of its intention to renew its system-wide cable franchise. On November 2, 2023, the Board notified Cablevision of Oakland 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, and invited Cablevision of Oakland 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 Oakland filed its Initial Comments with the Board on December 1, 2023, and December 8, 2023. On December 20, 2023 the Board issued a report ("Ascertainment Report") on Cablevision of Oakland's performance under its System-wide Cable Television Franchise and the future system-wide cable television franchise needs of the State and the municipalities under the system-wide cable television franchise.

# <u>APPLICATION</u>

On December 27, 2023, Cablevision filed its application for renewal of a system-wide franchise with the Board. In addition to the renewal, Cablevision of Oakland is seeking approval to construct a cable television system to provide service to the Townships. Cablevision of Oakland is a wholly owned subsidiary of Altice USA, Inc. ("Altice"), which collectively holds franchises in 179 New Jersey municipalities through its various affiliates.

Copies of the application were provided to the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel"), as well as to the clerks of all of the municipalities currently served, and the Townships. Following its review of Cablevision of Oakland's application, Staff issued a request seeking additional follow-up information on January 24, 2024. Cablevision of Oakland filed its responses on March 1, 2024, which addressed Staff's concerns.

In its application, Cablevision of Oakland seeks to renew its existing system-wide franchise, and add the Townships, which will be served via an extension of Cablevision of Oakland's incumbent

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The addition of these municipalities was memorialized by Orders of Amendment issued by the Board: on March 17, 2010, for two (2) municipalities; on June 18, 2010, for eight (8) municipalities; on September 16, 2010, for eight (8) municipalities; on November 10, 2010, for seven (7) municipalities; on January 19, 2011, for 10 municipalities; on May 16, 2011, for one (1) municipality; and on December 18, 2013, for one (1) municipality.

cable television system which provides service to 51 municipalities located in Bergen, Essex, and Morris Warren counties under 12 traditional municipal consent-based franchises and 39 municipalities under the current system-wide franchise. Cablevision of Oakland will configure the system to be an extension of the existing network which is a 750MHz hybrid-fiber coaxial, fiber-to-node digital design and the entire system will be two-way capable. Cablevision of Oakland has agreed to complete all proposed construction within the service areas of Montclair and West Orange, as described in its application, within one (1) year of the effective date of the system-wide franchise.

While Cablevision of Oakland has existing municipal consents from the municipalities under the 39 converted franchises, they do not have consents for the two new municipalities, Montclair and West Orange. As evidence that Cablevision of Oakland has authority from the Townships allowing the use of the public rights-of way to construct or extend its proposed cable television system, Cablevision of Oakland provided: 1) various permits from Montclair approving the installation of Fiber Cabinets within the utility Right-of-Way and a Resolution approved by the governing body of Montclair authorizing access to the Right-of-Way by Cablevision Lightpath-NJ Inc, and 4 Connections, LLC, both subsidiaries of Altice; and 2) a Resolution/Right-of-Way Use Agreement approved by the governing body of West Orange issued to 4 Connections, LLC, a subsidiary of Altice.

Cablevision of Oakland confirmed that it would abide by the provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(h) through (n), as required by the System-wide Cable Television Franchise Act. Specifically, N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28 (h) through (n) imposes requirements on all cable television companies operating under a system-wide franchise and includes commitments as to: line extensions; public, educational and governmental ("PEG") access channels; interconnection with other cable television companies; free cable and Internet service to public schools and municipal buildings; training and equipment for access users; PEG access return feeds; and compliance with customer protection regulations.

N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(h) requires a cable television system-wide franchise operator to meet or exceed the line extension policy ("LEP") commitments of the cable television company operating under a municipal consent ordinance-based franchise at the time the franchise is granted, which in this instance is Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC for the Townships. Cablevision of Oakland is required to continue to provide, at a minimum, service to any residence or business along any public right-of-way in the Primary Service Area in each of the municipalities at no cost beyond the installation rates contained in its schedule of prices, rates, terms and conditions filed with the Board as applicable. For any extension outside the Primary Service Area, Cablevision of Oakland shall provide service in accordance with the LEP attached to this order as Appendix "II", utilizing a homes per mile ("HPM") figure of 35 for all of the municipalities and the Townships.

N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(i) requires a cable television company operating under a system-wide franchise to provide two (2) PEG access channels upon request of a municipality. Cablevision of Oakland has agreed to provide two (2) PEG access channels for all of the municipalities and the Townships; such channels will be made available within a reasonable timeframe after Cablevision of Oakland begins offering cable television service within the municipalities and the Townships. Further, upon written request of any municipality, Cablevision of Oakland will provision the access channels in the same manner and quality as commercial channels, and will provide notice of the PEG channel designations as required by applicable statute and rules. Pursuant to this section, the municipalities and the Townships would be responsible for the management, operations and programming of the PEG access channels that are under its control. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-15.4(b), either Cablevision of Oakland or any of the municipalities may request assistance from

the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications ("OCTV&T") for resolution of any disputes regarding the terms and conditions of the provision of the access channels. N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(i) also requires all cable television companies operating in a municipality to provide PEG access interconnection on reasonable terms and conditions with all other cable television companies.

N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(j) and (k) require a cable television operator under a system-wide franchise to provide a single outlet of free basic cable television service and free Internet service to any fire station, public school, police station, public library, or other building used for municipal purposes. Cablevision of Oakland will continue to provide these services to the municipalities and has committed to install cable and Internet services to any qualified building within 90 days of written request by the municipalities and the Townships, free of charge, provided that the location is passed by active cable television plant. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-15.5(b), either party may request assistance from the OCTV&T for resolution of any disputes regarding the provision of these services.

N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(I) requires a cable television company operating under a system-wide franchise to provide equipment and training for PEG access users, without charge, on a schedule to be agreed upon between the municipality and the cable television company. Cablevision of Oakland has committed to provide use of video production equipment, without charge, for qualified access users to create access content, and provide training in accordance with a schedule agreed upon by the municipalities and the Townships and Cablevision of Oakland, but in a number not to exceed four times per year, in conformance with N.J.A.C. 14:18-15.6. Furthermore, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-15.6(d), either party may request assistance from the OCTV&T for resolution of any disputes regarding the provision of these services.

N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(m) requires a cable television company operating under a system-wide franchise to provide a return line. Cablevision has committed to provide a return line, upon written request, from any one location in the municipalities and the Townships to Cablevision of Oakland's cable television system for PEG access use, which, at a minimum, will provide the municipalities and the Townships with the ability to cablecast live or taped access programming in real time to Cablevision of Oakland customers. Furthermore, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-15.4(c), either party may request assistance from the OCTV&T for resolution of any disputes regarding the provision of these services.

N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(n) requires Cablevision of Oakland to continue to "meet any consumer protection requirements applicable, pursuant to board regulations, to cable television companies operating under certificates of approval." Cablevision of Oakland has certified in its application that it will meet the requirements of this Section.

Cablevision of Oakland has also committed to maintaining, under its system-wide franchise, the same liability limits required under N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(f). Cablevision of Oakland will continue to maintain commercial general liability insurance coverage with respect to claims related to bodily injury, property damage or other claims arising out of Cablevision of Oakland's construction and operation of its cable television system in amounts that are at least: 1) \$150,000 for bodily injury or death to any one person, within the limit, however, of \$500,000 for bodily injury or death resulting from any one accident, 2) \$100,000 for property damage resulting from any one accident, and 3) \$50,000 for other commercial general liability claims.

The System-wide Cable Television Franchise Act requires cable television companies operating under a system-wide franchise to pay increased franchise fees from 2% of basic cable television service revenues to 3.5% of gross cable television service revenues, as well as an amount not to

exceed 0.5% of gross revenues for a CATV Universal Access Fund. N.J.S.A. 48:5A-30. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-5.1, all cable television operating companies are required to maintain "in or within reasonable proximity of its service area, a local business office, the current location of which shall be furnished to the Office where applications for service, complaints, service inquiries, bill payments, and so forth will be received." Cablevision of Oakland currently maintains local offices at 40 Potash Road, Oakland, New Jersey, and any modification to the location of the office will be subject to the approval process specified at N.J.A.C. 14:18-5.1(c).

Finally, the requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-25.2(a) are not applicable to Cablevision of Oakland, as Cablevision of Oakland does not provide more than 40 percent of the local exchange telephone service market in the State.

# **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-16(f), two (2) virtual public hearings were held by the Board in this matter on February 1, 2024. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:5A-18(a), notice of the public hearings was posted on the Board's website and in newspapers of general circulation throughout the State more than 10 days in advance of the hearings. The notice indicated that written comments could be filed until February 6, 2024, or five (5) days following the public hearings. 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. At both hearings, Cablevision of Oakland discussed company highlights and the positive benefits the application will have for the municipalities and the Townships. Rate Counsel noted the importance of public comment and stated that it would provide written comments to the Board regarding the application and the issuance of the System-wide Cable Television Franchise.

On February 5, 2024, Montclair filed a letter of support for the application. On February 6, 2024, Rate Counsel filed a letter with the Board stating that it reviewed the application and supporting documentation and indicated that they would not support approval of the application unless several conditions were met regarding: 1) resolution of an unrelated case (November 2019 cease-and-desist Order);<sup>4</sup> 2) modification of Cablevision of Oakland's policies regarding PEG access channels, training and return feeds; and 3) additional data be provided regarding designated HPM or Cablevision's LEP. No other comments were made at either public hearing or filed electronically thereafter.

On March 8, 2024, Cablevision of Oakland filed a comment in response to Rate Counsel's February 6, 2024 letter. Cablevision of Oakland argues that its existing performance under its System-wide Franchise and its application have satisfied all state requirements for renewal. Cablevision of Oakland contends that it has provided all information required by N.J.A.C. 14:18-14.18 and has at all times materially complied with all obligations applicable to cable television franchisees pursuant to its existing System-wide Franchise and Board rules.

Further, the Company argues that it is complying with the Board's November 2019 cease-and-desist Order, and that the Order is not a basis to deny the instant application. Cablevision of Oakland asserts that since the Supreme Court's ruling, it has updated its billing policies regarding termination of cable television service in compliance with the Board's November 2019 Order. The Company states that, today, its policy is to issue prorated refunds to Optimum NJ customers who

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Cease and Desist Order, In the Matter of the Alleged Failure of Altice USA, Inc., to Comply with Certain Provisions of the New Jersey Cable Television Act, N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq., and the New Jersey Administrative Code, N.J.A.C. 14:18-1.1 et seq., BPU Docket Number CS18121288 (Nov. 13, 2019)

terminate cable television service in the middle of a monthly billing cycle. Cablevision of Oakland further asserts that it has engaged with Board Staff concerning the implementation of the November 2019 Order's retroactive conditions and looks forward to continuing that dialogue with Board Staff and Rate Counsel outside of this proceeding, but that the 2019 Order is nevertheless not a basis to deny the application. Finally, Cablevision of Oakland argues that its application and its amended initial comments provided to the Board on December 8, 2023, largely addresses Rate Counsel's remaining concerns raised in its February 6, 2024 letter.

A subsequent letter was filed by Rate Counsel on March 13, 2024, reiterating and supporting the arguments it raised in its initial comment and urging the Board to disregard Cablevision of Oakland's March 8, 2024 reply as being out of time. On March 14, 2024, Cablevision filed a response to Rate Counsel's letter reiterating its arguments that the 2019 Order is not a basis for denial of the application.

# DISCUSSION

In determining whether to issue Cablevision of Oakland a renewal of its System-wide Cable Television Franchise, and to add the Townships to 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 commitments of a system-wide cable television franchise applicant. The Board's review of the application ensures that Cablevision of Oakland's application satisfies the requirements set forth by the Legislature.

Rate Counsel's comments recommending that the Board deny the application subject to certain conditions either fall outside of the parameters of the statutory review noted above (N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17 and N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28) or go beyond the scope of the review required by the same, and therefore cannot be adopted. The specific requests are not explicitly required by the CATV Act and Cablevision of Oakland has demonstrated that they have substantially complied with all of the requirements imposed by the relevant statutes and regulations.

# CONCLUSION

Based upon these findings, the Board <u>HEREBY CONCLUDES</u> that, pursuant to the System-wide Cable Television Franchise Act and the Cable Television Act, Cablevision of Oakland 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 the Cablevision of Oakland 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 Oakland is <u>HEREBY ISSUED</u> this Renewal System-wide Cable Television Franchise, with the addition of the Townships, for a period of seven years, as evidence of Cablevision of Oakland'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 Oakland 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 Oakland shall be considered a part of this System-wide Cable Television Franchise and made part hereof by reference.
- 2. Cablevision of Oakland may convert and add existing municipal consent-based franchises and affected municipalities to its system-wide franchise authorization, pursuant to the requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-25.1.
- 3. The Petitioner shall be required to complete all proposed construction within the service area as described in its application within one (1) year of the effective date of the System-wide franchise. Upon completion, the Petitioner shall submit proof to the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunication indicating its compliance with this provision. The Petitioner shall provide the OCTV&T with construction status reports every 30 days beginning within 60 days of the effective date of this franchise. The reports shall include, but not be limited to: a) account of the total miles of plant projected, both aerial and underground; b) the total miles of plant yet to be built, both aerial and underground; c) the number, dates of submission, and a percentage of the total make-ready surveys submitted to the utilities; d) the number, dates received, and a percentage of the total make-ready (e.g. total miles released by utilities); e) licenses received; f) miles of fiber stranded; g) miles of cable stranded; h) miles of aerial plant constructed; i) miles of underground fiber constructed; j) miles of underground plant constructed; k) total plant constructed; and l) miles of activated plant.
- 4. Cablevision of Oakland shall comply with N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(h) and shall provide service to any resident in all municipalities and the Townships at no cost beyond the installation rates contained in its schedule of prices, rates, terms and conditions filed with the Board. For any extension of plant outside the primary service area, the company shall provide service to all residents passed by cable television service in accordance with the LEP included in its application (Appendix "II"), with a HPM of no greater than 35. Where the existing cable television company maintains a policy whereby residents of a municipality shall be offered service without application of an LEP, the Petitioner shall provide service to all residents likewise. Additionally, the terms and conditions associated with the LEP shall meet or exceed those provided by the incumbent cable operator in each municipality, and limitations or restrictions imposed in the LEP beyond those that exist in the incumbent's LEP shall be null and void, and instead shall be modified to match those provided by the incumbent's LEP. In this application, the municipalities and the Townships' homes per mile figure is 35.
- Under N.J.A.C. 14:18-5.1(a), Cablevision shall maintain a local business office where applications for service, complaints, service inquiries, bill payments, and so forth will be received. Currently, Cablevision of Oakland maintains a local office at 40 Potash Road,

Oakland, New Jersey. Cablevision of Oakland shall maintain its local office in accordance with applicable law.

- 6. The designated complaint officer for all municipalities in Cablevision of Oakland's Systemwide Cable Television Franchise is the OCTV&T. All complaints shall be received and processed in accordance with applicable rules.
- 7. Cablevision of Oakland shall pay a franchise fee to each municipality served 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 municipalities and the Townships.
- 8. Cablevision of Oakland 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 municipalities and the Townships.
- 9. Cablevision of Oakland shall maintain an informational schedule of prices, rates, terms and conditions for unregulated service and promptly file any revisions thereto.
- 10. Upon written request of a municipality served by its System-wide Cable Television Franchise, Cablevision of Oakland shall provide or continue to 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).
- 11. Upon written request of a municipality served by its System-wide Cable Television Franchise, Cablevision of Oakland shall provide and maintain up to two (2) PEG access channels. If a municipality requests more than two (2) 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 channels in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:18-15.4(a)(4).
- 12. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(I), Cablevision of Oakland shall continue to provide equipment and training for municipalities covered by the 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 currently maintains a studio location at 352 Central Avenue, Newark, New Jersey. The hours of operation are from 9:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday, by appointment, on a first come, first served basis. Cablevision provides training at the access studio upon request. A municipality or its designee wishing to use the studio must have an access user application on file and submit a completed studio time user application. A municipality or its designee wishing to receive training must have an access user application on file and submit a completed access training application.
- 13. Upon written request of a municipality served by its System-wide Cable Television Franchise, Cablevision of Oakland shall install and maintain, without charge, one service outlet activated for basic cable television service and, as set forth in the application, 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.S.A. 48:5A-28(j) and N.J.A.C. 14:18-15.5.

- 14. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(d) and N.J.A.C. 14:18-14.3, Cablevision of Oakland 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.
- 15. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(n), Cablevision of Oakland shall continue to comply with any applicable consumer protection requirements.

This Renewal of Cablevision of Oakland's System-wide Cable Television Franchise is subject to all applicable State and federal laws, the rules and regulations of the OCTV&T, 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 Oakland 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 OCTV&T 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 Oakland'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 Oakland's Renewal System-wide Cable Television Franchise shall expire on March 20, 2030.

This Order shall be effective on March 27, 2024.

**DATED: March 20, 2024** 

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

PRISTINE GUHL-SADOVY

PRESIDENT

DR. ŽENON CHRISTODOULOU COMMISSIONER

MARIAN ABDOU COMMISSIONER

MICHAEL BANGE COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

SHERRI L. GOLDEN

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 Oakland System-wide Cable Television Franchise Municipalities

			Date
#	Municipality	County	Converted
1	Allendale Borough	Bergen	07/19/10
2	Alpine Borough	Bergen	10/25/13
3	Bogota Borough	Bergen	12/23/09
4	Cedar Grove Township	Essex	03/20/09
5	Clifton City	Passaic	11/19/2010
6	Elmwood Park Borough	Bergen	07/19/10
7	Franklin Lakes Borough	Bergen	09/17/10
8	Garfield City	Bergen	05/11/10
9	Glen Rock Borough	Bergen	07/19/10
10	Hackensack City	Bergen	02/28/11
11	Haledon Borough	Passaic	09/17/10
12	Hasbrouck Heights Borough	Bergen	07/19/10
13	Hawthorne Borough	Passaic	09/17/10
14	Ho-Ho-Kus Borough	Bergen	11/19/2010
15	Little Falls Township	Passaic	11/19/2010
16	Lodi Borough	Bergen	11/19/2010
17	Maywood Borough	Bergen	11/19/2010
18	Midland Park Borough	Bergen	07/19/2010
19	North Caldwell Borough	Essex	11/19/2010
20	North Haledon Borough	Passaic	11/19/2010
21	Nutley Township	Essex	05/11/10
22	Oakland Borough	Bergen	07/19/10
23	Park Ridge Borough	Bergen	09/17/10
24	Passaic City	Passaic	11/19/2010
25	Prospect Park Borough	Passaic	09/17/10
26	Ramsey Borough	Bergen	12/23/09
27	Ridgewood Village	Bergen	05/11/10
28	River Edge Borough	Bergen	05/11/10
29	Rochelle Park Township	Bergen	05/11/10
30	Saddle Brook Township	Bergen	09/17/10
31	South Hackensack Township	Bergen	07/19/10
32	Teaneck Township	Bergen	10/6/17
33	Totowa Borough	Passaic	05/11/10
34	Upper Saddle River Borough	Bergen	09/17/10
35	Waldwick Borough	Bergen	05/11/10
36	Washington Township	Bergen	07/19/10
37	Westwood Borough	Bergen	05/11/10
38	Wood-Ridge Borough	Bergen	11/19/2010
39	Wyckoff Township	Bergen	11/19/2010

40	Montclair Township	Essex	n/a
41	West Orange Township	Essex	n/a

# APPENDIX "II" Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications Line Extension Policy

Company: Cablevision of Oakland, LLC

A cable operator is required to absorb the cost of extensions to the system in the same proportion that the extension is to the remainder of the system.

Actual subscribers served by the extension are required to absorb the remainder of the cost.

If new subscribers are added to the extension, the cost is adjusted and those who previously paid receive an appropriate rebate.

1.	# of homes in extension mileage of extension	=	homes per mile ("HPM") of extension
2.	HPM of extension Minimum HPM that company actually constructs in the system*	=	ratio of the density of the extension to the minimum density that the company constructs in the system ("A")
3.	Total cost of building the extension times "A"	=	company's share of extension cost
4.	Total cost of building extension less company's share of extension cost	=	total amount to be recovered from subscribers
5.	Total amount to be recovered from subs Total subscribers in extension	=	each subscriber's share

In any case, the company shall extend its plant along public rights of way to:

- 1. All residences and businesses within 150 aerial feet of the operator's existing plant at no cost beyond the normal installation rate.
- 2. All residences and businesses within 100 underground feet of the operator's plant at no cost beyond the normal installation rate.
- \* The minimum HPM that the company actually constructs in the system or municipality is the minimum number of homes that the company has historically constructed at its own cost. This is a function of the operator's breakeven point and its rate of return. Unbuilt systems will use the primary service area rather than construction.

The operator's installation policies shall apply to construction beyond the public right of way.

Detailed accounting or financial information to support the minimum HPM shall be supplied to the Office for its approval in such form as required. The minimum HPM shall be updated as appropriate.

When a request for service is received, and unless good cause is shown, cable companies shall:

- 1. Provide a written estimate within thirty (30) days of such a request.
- 2. Begin construction within sixty (60) days of receipt of any deposit monies from potential subscribers.
- 3. Complete construction within six (6) months of receipt of any deposit monies from potential subscribers.
- 4. Inform each home passed along the extension of the potential costs for subscribers.

Subscribers who pay for an extension shall be entitled to rebates in the following manner:

- 1. If the company acquires new subscribers subsequent to the initial calculation of step 5 above, the formula will be adjusted and those who have previously paid for the extension will be entitled to an appropriate rebate. In no event shall the amount of the rebate exceed the subscriber's contribution.
- 2. The company shall keep accurate records of the cost of the extension, the amounts paid by subscribers, and any appropriate adjustments.
- 3. The company shall notify subscribers in the extension of their rights and responsibilities concerning the extension.
- 4. Once an individual dwelling has paid its share of the extension cost, future reconnections or installations shall be made at the company's standard rates.
- 5. After a period of five (5) years from the installation of the first dwelling unit in the extension, no further adjustments shall be made. Installations after five (5) years shall be at the company's standard rate.
- 6. Once a subscriber is installed, that person shall not normally be entitled to a refund of any monies paid for the installations, except in accordance with the rebate procedure outlined in this policy.

# **Definitions**

# Primary Service Area

The Primary Service Area ("PSA") can be an entire municipality, but in many instances the PSA is a limited area within a community outside of which a line extension policy may apply. The PSA is depicted by a franchise map and narrative, presented and recorded during the franchise proceedings. It normally remains a fixed geographic area throughout the life of the franchise.

# Line Extension Survey

Potential subscribers residing outside the PSA who request service are entitled to an estimate of their share of the cost to secure service. When conducting a survey and estimating costs, a cable company should factor in all potential subscribers who could practicably be included in the extension and give consideration to apparent residential construction in areas contiguous to the proposed extension.

# IN THE MATTER THE APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF A SYSTEM-WIDE CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE FOR CABLEVISION OF OAKLAND, LLC

# **DOCKET NO. CE23120919**

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