Agenda Date: 4/30/24 Agenda Item: 3A



STATE OF NEW JERSEY Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 OF COMCAST OF PLAINFIELD, LLC FOR A SYSTEM-WIDE CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE IN THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY SYSTEM-WIDE CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE

DOCKET NO. CE24030181

Parties of Record:

**Stan Barrett, Esq.,** Scarinci Hollenbeck, LLC on behalf of Comcast of Plainfield, LLC **Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director**, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

On March 13, 2024, Comcast of Plainfield, LLC ("Comcast PF", "Comcast", or "Petitioner") filed an application with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") for a system-wide cable television franchise to provide cable television service to the Borough of Dunellen ("Dunellen"),<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Board previously approved a Cable Television Franchise for CSC TKR, LLC d/b/a/ Cablevision of Raritan Valley in the Borough of Dunellen, which was renewed and will remain in effect until April 24, 2034. <u>See In re the Petition of CSC TKR, LLC d/b/a Cablevision of Raritan Valley for Renewal of a Certificate of Approval to Continue to Operate and Maintain a Cable System in the Borough of Dunellen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, BPU Docket No. CE23090681, Order dated April 24, 2024.</u>

The Board previously approved a System-wide Cable Television Franchise for Verizon New Jersey, Inc. in the Borough of Dunellen, 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.

# APPLICATION

On March 13, 2024, Comcast PF filed its application for a system-wide franchise with the Board, seeking approval to construct a cable television system to provide service to Dunellen. Comcast PF is a wholly owned subsidiary of Comcast Cable Communications, LLC, which collectively holds franchises in 349 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 clerk of Dunellen. Following its review of Comcast PF's application, Board Staff ("Staff") issued a request seeking additional follow-up information on March 27, 2024. On April 5, 2024, Comcast filed responses and an additional amendment to the application, which addressed Staff's concerns.

The application stated that the Comcast PF system-wide franchise would be an extension of Comcast PF's incumbent cable television system, which provides service to three (3) municipalities located in Middlesex, Somerset, and Union counties under traditional municipal consent-based franchises. Comcast PF would configure the system to be an extension of the existing network. Comcast service to Dunellen would be delivered with fiber to the home ("FTTH") network architecture originating from primary facilities in Plainfield and secondary facilities in East Windsor. The system is an active/passive optical network using the IEEE 10G-EPON standard that can deliver 10Gbps symmetrical service and is designed to deliver enhanced reliability and increased capacity to accommodate increasing Internet use today and in the future. The proposed system is a two-way fiber optic distribution network that can provide high-speed Internet access, digital video, video on demand, high definition television, and Xfinity Voice, with all services using the Internet suite of Protocols. Comcast has agreed to complete all proposed construction within the service area of Dunellen, as described in its application.

As evidence that Comcast PF has authority from Dunellen to utilize their respective public rights-of-way to allow for the construction or extension of the proposed cable television system, Comcast PF provided a copy of an ordinance adopted by Dunellen granting Comcast PF right-of-way authority to permit the installation, use and maintenance of cable television service facilities for the purposes of providing cable television services and the related use agreement executed by Dunellen and Comcast PF.<sup>2</sup>

Comcast PF 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 CSC TKR d/b/a/ Cablevision of Raritan Valley. Comcast PF is required to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The ordinance was initially adopted on March 4, 2024 but was revised and formally adopted on April 1, 2024.

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continue to provide, at a minimum, service to any residence or business along any public rightof-way in the Primary Service Area in Dunellen 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, Comcast shall provide service in accordance with the line extension policy attached to this order as Appendix "I", utilizing a homes per mile ("HPM") figure of 25 for Dunellen.

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. Comcast PF has agreed to provide two (2) PEG access channels for use by Dunellen, which would be made available within a reasonable timeframe after Comcast begins offering cable television service within Dunellen. Further, upon written request of any municipality, Comcast 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, Dunellen would be responsible for the management, operations and programming of the PEG access channels that are in its control. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-15.4(b), either Comcast or Dunellen may request assistance from the Office of Cable Television & 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. Comcast PF has committed to install cable and Internet services to any qualified building within 90 days of written request by Dunellen, 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. Comcast PF 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 Dunellen and Comcast PF, but in a number not to exceed four (4) 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. Comcast PF has committed to provide a return line, upon written request, from any one location in Dunellen to Comcast PF's cable television system for PEG access use, which, at a minimum, will provide Dunellen with the ability to cablecast live or taped access programming in real time to Comcast PF 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 Comcast to continue to "meet any consumer protection requirements applicable, pursuant to board regulations, to cable television companies operating under certificates of approval." Comcast has certified in its application that it will meet the requirements of this Section.

Comcast has also committed to maintaining, under its system-wide franchise, the same liability limits required under N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(f). Comcast would continue to maintain commercial general liability insurance coverage with respect to claims related to bodily injury, property damage or other claims arising out of Comcast'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 (1) person, within the limit, however, of \$500,000 for bodily injury or death resulting from any one (1) 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." Comcast currently maintains a local office at 899 St. Georges Ave., Suite 13, Woodbridge, Middlesex County, 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). In addition to the Woodbridge location, Comcast's customers are able to conduct business at any of the company's office locations as all locations referenced in the application meet the requirements of N.J.S.A. 48:5a-26(d) and are capable of receiving, investigating and resolving complaints regarding the quality of service, equipment malfunctions and similar matters, as well as applications for service, service inquiries and bill payments.

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

# PUBLIC HEARINGS

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-16(f), two (2) public hearings were held in this matter on April 8, 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 April 15, 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. At both hearings, Comcast PF discussed company highlights and the positive benefits the application will have for Dunellen. 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.

At the second public hearing, Dunellen Mayor, Jason Cilento, spoke in favor of Comcast PF's application for Dunellen being granted. The Mayor noted that the services being proposed to

Dunellen as outlined in the application filed by Comcast would provide the benefits of FTTH, a more stable cable service, better internet service and the hope with increased competition his residents would have better service and decreased costs. The Mayor spoke of the benefits of competition to provide advanced and improved service quality and advance economic development.

On April 15, 2024, Rate Counsel filed comments with the Board stating that it reviewed the application and supporting documentation and believes that Comcast has substantially met the provision of service requirements delineated under the State Cable Act and under the applicable section of the Board's regulations. However, Rate Counsel suggested the Board address concerns regarding the equipment and training schedule and the designation of the local office.

On April 18, 2024, Comcast PF filed a letter in response to Rate Counsel's Comments.

First Comcast noted that Dunellen Mayor Jason F. Cilento supported the System-wide Franchise application for Dunellen stating he believed the approval would provide competition with the potential for better services for the residents.

Next, regarding the equipment and training schedule, Comcast stated that its commitment in its application at Section IV, Subsection 2(b) accurately reflects the Company's legal obligations with respect to access training as delineated in N.J.A.C. 14:18-15.6. Comcast further stated that its response preserves the possibility of additional training should the parties reach an agreement to that effect.

Regarding the local office requirement, Comcast stated that its existing Xfinity store locations in the Townships of Woodbridge and East Brunswick satisfy the local office requirement set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:18-5.1(a) because: (i) Comcast's Woodbridge and East Brunswick Xfinity store locations are within Middlesex County, which is the same as for the service area of Dunellen; and (ii) both the Woodbridge and East Brunswick Xfinity stores (like all Xfinity stores) are capable of "receiving, investigating and resolving all complaints regarding the quality of service, equipment malfunctions, and similar matters," as required by N.J.S.A. 48:5A-26(d), and of receiving, investigating, and resolving "applications for service, service inquiries, bill payments, and so forth," as required by N.J.A.C. 14:18-5.1(a).

No other comments were filed electronically thereafter by any party or member of the public.

# DISCUSSION

In determining whether to issue Comcast PF a 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 Comcast PF's application satisfies the requirements set forth by the

Legislature.

Rate Counsel's comments were in favor of the Board approving the application, with several suggestions which the applicant addressed, thereby assuring that Comcast PF is in compliance with N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17 and N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28. Rate Counsel stated that Comcast's proposal for equipment and training contained language which might unfairly impact the municipality. However, Staff found that Comcast's proposal is consistent with Board's rules at N.J.A.C.14:18-15.6, which provides in part that "[s]uch training shall be offered upon request of the municipality; and shall be provided in accordance with a schedule agreed upon by the municipality and the cable television company. The cable television company shall not be required to provide training for any group of less than six participants, nor shall the cable television company be required to provide training for any municipality more than four times a year, unless otherwise agreed to by the municipality and the cable television company." Rate Counsel further stated that the Board should require Comcast to maintain local offices for the purpose of receiving, investigating and resolving customer complaints, which are local to Dunellen. However, Comcast's application indicated that it will use the local office currently located in Woodbridge Township, which meets the statutory criteria for a local office pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-26(d). Additional local offices located throughout Comcast's service territory were also provided in the Appendix of the application where customers may also conduct service.

# CONCLUSION

Based upon these findings, the Board <u>HEREBY CONCLUDES</u> that, pursuant to the Systemwide Cable Television Franchise Act and the Cable Television Act, Comcast PF 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 Comcast PF 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, Comcast PF is <u>HEREBY</u> <u>ISSUED</u> this System-wide Cable Television Franchise, for a period of seven (7) years, as evidence of Comcast PF'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 a 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 Comcast PF as terms and conditions of this System-wide Cable Television Franchise, and included as conditions as if fully set forth herein. The application and any other relevant writings submitted by Comcast PF shall be considered a part of this System-wide Cable Television Franchise and made part hereof by reference.
- 2. Comcast 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. Upon completion, the Petitioner shall submit proof to the OCTV&T 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. Comcast will provide any and all final maps for each phase of the buildout as noted in the application at least two (2) business days and not less than 48 hours prior to activation of service. In the absence of staff receiving the maps in a timely manner, Comcast shall not activate service. Rate Counsel shall be provided the maps at the same time as the Board, subject to any appropriate confidentiality agreements.
- 5. Comcast PF shall comply with N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(h), and shall provide service to all residents passed by cable television service in accordance with the LEP included in its application (Appendix "I"), with a HPM of no greater than 25. Where residents of a municipality are currently offered service by the existing cable television company in accordance with an LEP with an HPM of 25, the Petitioner shall be required to offer service in accordance with the attached LEP with an HPM at least as favorable as the existing cable television company. Additionally, the terms and conditions associated with the LEP shall meet or exceed those provided by the incumbent cable operator 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 HPM figure is 25 for Dunellen.
- Under N.J.A.C. 14:18-5.1(a), Comcast shall maintain a local business office where applications for service, complaints, service inquiries, bill payments, and so forth will be received. Currently, Comcast maintains a local office at 899 St. Georges Ave., Suite 13, Woodbridge, New Jersey. Comcast shall maintain its local office in accordance with applicable law.
- 7. The designated complaint officer for all municipalities in Comcast PF's System-wide Cable Television Franchise is the OCTV&T. All complaints shall be received and processed in accordance with applicable rules.
- Comcast PF 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 Dunellen.
- Comcast PF 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 Dunellen.
- 10. Comcast PF shall maintain an informational schedule of prices, rates, terms and conditions for unregulated service and promptly file any revisions thereto.

- 11. Upon written request of a municipality served by its System-wide Cable Television Franchise, Comcast PF 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
- 12. Upon written request of a municipality served by its system-wide cable television Franchise, Comcast PF 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).
- 13. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(I), Comcast PF shall 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. Comcast PF shall provide training pursuant to a schedule agreed upon between Dunellen and Comcast PF.
- 14. Upon written request of a municipality served by its System-wide Cable Television Franchise, Comcast PF 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.
- 15. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(d) and N.J.A.C. 14:18-14.3, Comcast PF 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.
- 16. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(n), Comcast PF shall comply with any applicable consumer protection requirements.

This 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. Comcast PF shall adhere to the applicable operating standards set forth by the Federal Communications Commission's rules and regulations, 47 C.F.R. §76.1 <u>et seq.</u> 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 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 System-wide Cable Television Franchise.

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This System-wide Cable Television Franchise is issued on the representation that the statements contained in Comcast PF'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 OCTV&T pursuant to the authority contained in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.

Comcast PF's System-wide Cable Television Franchise shall expire on May 7, 2031.

This Order shall be effective on May 7, 2024.

DATED: April 30, 2024

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

STINE GUHL-SADOVY CHR PRESIDENT

ZENON CHRISTODOULOU DR

COMMISSIONER

MARIAN

COMMISSIONER

MICH/ BANGE

COMMISSIONER

GOI DF

CRETARY

ATTEST:

i HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the existent in the files of the Board of Public Utilities.

## APPENDIX "I"

## Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications Line Extension Policy

Company: Comcast of Plainfield, 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.	<u># of homes in extension</u> 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 <u>recovered from subs</u> 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 OF COMCAST OF PLAINFIELD, LLC FOR A SYSTEM-WIDE CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE

### DOCKET NO. CE24030181

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