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Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 <u>www.nj.gov/Bpu</u> LAWANDA R. GILBERT DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION & TELECOMMUNICATIONS TEL: (609) 341-9186 FAX: (609) 777-3325

February 15, 2023

Dennis Linken, Esq. Scarinci Hollenbeck, LLC 150 Clove Road, 9th Fl Little Falls, NJ, 07424

Re: In the Matter of the Petition of Comcast of Central 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 Borough of Far Hills, County of Somerset, State of New

Jersey, Docket No. CE21020477

Dear Mr. Linken;

The Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications ("OCTV&T") is in receipt of the above captioned Petition for Renewal Certificate of Approval and attached application for the Borough of Far Hills ("Borough"). The OCTV&T staff have completed a review of the file would like the company to provide the following information in this matter:

- 1. Petition Exhibit A and B: The Petition submitted on February 16, 2021 states that Exhibits A and B were to be annexed to the Petition. Exhibit A of the Petition is the ordinance adopted on or about August 10, 2020, and Exhibit B is the company's letter filed on or about September 22, 2020, accepting the terms and conditions of the Renewal of Municipal Consent. Staff notes that the Petition submitted to the OCTV&T did not contain Exhibits A or B. Please submit Exhibits A and B.
- 2. Section I. Organization and Management, Subsection 1. System Personnel (if not applicable so indicate) Subsection G: This section requires the applicant to provide information for the Personnel indicated for operations positions shall be those person who, in fact will have responsibility, authority and control of the day-to-day system construction and operation. Staff notes that the application has listed Charles Smith as the Director of Government & Regulatory Affairs and his phone number. However, Mr. Smith is no longer with the Company. Please provide updated information for this section, including Director of Government & Regulatory Affairs, with the associated contact information.
- 3. <u>Section IV. System Design Subsection 4:</u> This section of the application requires the company to list the type of channels, proposed inception, and cable channel designation that has been agreed upon between the municipality and company. Staff notes that this question was left blank in the application. Please revise the application page appropriately.

4. Each applicant shall title by category and list the following information concerning program origination;

WD0

Cable Channel Designation

Type

Proposed Inception

4. <u>IX. Line Extension Policy:</u> The ordinance and application state that the OCTV&T's Line Extension Policy ("LEP") is applicable. However, no LEP was attached to the application as an Appendix. The current COA contains the OCTV&T's LEP, which will be used in the Borough and is attached.

Please respond to this correspondence by March 2, 2023. If you should have any questions, please contact me at (609) 341-9170 or e-mail nancy.wolf@bpu.nj.gov.

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Wo

Administrative Analyst 4

nw/ab

Enclosures.

C: Dorothy Hicks, Borough Clerk (w/o encl.)

Joseph Sordillo, Esq., Borough Attorney (w/o encl.) Karen Mastriano, Comcast of Central New Jersey II, LLC (w/encl.)

Stan Barrett, Esq., Scarinci Hollenbeck, LLC (w/encl.)

Ashley Bliss, OCTV&T (w/o encl.

## Office of Cable Television Line Extension Policy

Company Patriot Media and Communications CNJ, LLC Municipality Borough of Far Hills

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 which 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:

- 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.

<sup>\*</sup> The minimum HPM that the company actually constructs in the system or municipality is the minimum number of homes which the company has historically constructed at its own cost. This is a function of the operator's break even 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 and/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 30 days of such a request.
- 2. Begin construction within 60 days of receipt of any deposit monies from potential subscribers.
- 3. Complete construction within six 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:

- 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 years from the installation of the first dwelling unit in the extension no further adjustments shall be made. Installations after five 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.