

DT 03-021

VERIZON NEW HAMPSHIRE and GRANITE STATE TELEPHONE, INC.

Joint Petition to Modify Service Territory Boundaries

Order Nisi Approving Boundary Modifications

O R D E R N O. 24,158

April 18, 2003

On February 11, 2003, Verizon New Hampshire (Verizon) and Granite State Telephone, Inc. (Granite State) (jointly, the "Companies") filed a joint petition, pursuant to RSA 374:30, to modify their service territory boundaries as described below and as depicted on revised franchise maps submitted with the petition.

The petition requests approval to modify service territory boundaries by transferring a small portion of Verizon's service territory in Fremont (service area) to Granite State. There are currently no customers receiving service from Verizon in this service area. However, housing construction has begun in the service area. Granite State's service territory includes significant portions of the Towns of Chester and Sandown, which abut the service area. This territory would be difficult for Verizon to serve, while Granite State's facilities may easily be extended to serve new customers requesting service.

RSA 374:30 permits a utility to transfer franchise territory to another utility upon a determination by the

Commission that such transfer is for the public good. The Companies avow that no assets are being sold or transferred between the parties as a result of this agreement.

Granite State's provision of service in the service area is consistent with its present basic exchange obligation to customers in its adjacent service territory. We find that the transfer will facilitate efficient service and maintenance in the service area, and is for the public good. Accordingly, the petition is approved.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED NISI, that, subject to the effective date below, the proposed franchise boundary changes between Verizon and Granite State are approved as filed; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Verizon and Granite State file properly annotated tariff pages in compliance with this Commission order no later than 30 days from the issuance of this order as required by N.H. Admin. Code Puc 1603.02, along with two copies of the relevant maps; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Petitioners shall cause a copy of this Order Nisi to be published once in a statewide newspaper of general circulation and shall provide a copy of this order to the Town Clerk of Fremont no later than April 28, 2003 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before May 12, 2003; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that new service be provided pursuant to the approved franchise boundaries; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this petition be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing on this matter before the Commission no later than May 5, 2003; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than May 12, 2003; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order Nisi shall be effective May 19, 2003, unless the Petitioners fail to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eighteenth day of April, 2003.

Thomas B. Getz
Chairman

Susan S. Geiger
Commissioner

Nancy Brockway
Commissioner

Attested by:

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director & Secretary