

January 24, 2008

Re: DT 07-011, Verizon New Hampshire
Transfer of Assets to FairPoint Communications
Scheduling of Hearings

To the Parties:

On January 24, 2008, the Joint Petitioners in the above referenced proceeding filed a settlement agreement reached with Staff proposing supplemental conditions to the proposed transactions at issue in this proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to advise the parties to the docket how the Commission intends to proceed with this matter in light of the January 24 filing.

The Commission has scheduled hearings to commence on February 4, 2008 at 1:00 p.m., and which will continue on February 5 as necessary, to consider this filing. In order to provide the parties an opportunity to conduct informal discovery concerning the settlement by obtaining information from its signatories, the Commission has scheduled a technical session on January 28, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. On that date, the petitioners and Staff will provide background and answer questions from the parties regarding the filing.

Following the January 28, 2008 technical session, any party wishing to present testimony at the hearing shall identify the witnesses who will testify by making an appropriate filing with the Commission on or before January 30, 2008. Further, any such witnesses shall make themselves available at a technical session on February 1, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of providing informal discovery concerning their planned testimony. Witnesses who are not identified by January 30 and/or who do not provide informal discovery on February 1 will not be heard on February 4.

At hearing, the Commission will entertain testimony from (1) the Joint Petitioners explaining agreements reached and/or decisions issued in Maine and Vermont, (2) witnesses for the Joint Petitioners and Staff in support of the agreements reflected in the January 24, 2008 filing, and (3) witnesses for any other party wishing to take a position on the agreements.

At the conclusion of the evidentiary hearings, the Commission will entertain closing arguments. Following the hearings, the Commission will close the record and proceed to a decision on the merits.

Very truly yours,

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director and Secretary