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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

TDD Access: Relay NH  
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-2431

FAX No. 271-3878

Website:  
[www.puc.nh.gov](http://www.puc.nh.gov)

February 3, 2017

Re: DT 16-872, Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc.  
Joint Petition for Findings in Furtherance of the Acquisition of FairPoint  
Communications, Inc. and its New Hampshire Operating Subsidiaries  
Adopting Procedural Schedule for Proceeding

To the Parties:

On February 1, 2017, the Commission held a duly noticed prehearing conference in the above-referenced matter. Appearances were entered by the Joint Petitioners, by the Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 1400 and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Locals 2320, 2326, and 2327, that form the IBEW System Council T-9 (collectively, Labor Interveners), and by Commission Staff. The Commission granted the petition to intervene filed by the Labor Interveners.

On February 2, 2017, Commission Staff filed a letter recommending that the Commission adopt an agreed-upon procedural schedule for the proceeding and also approve discovery dispute procedures to apply in this docket. The Commission has reviewed and approved the recommended procedural schedule and discovery dispute procedures.

Accordingly, the following procedural schedule is adopted for this proceeding:

Action	Date or Deadline (all in 2017)
Data Requests on Joint Petition and Pre-Filed Direct Testimony from Labor Interveners	Wed., February 8
Responses to Labor Interveners' First DR Set	Wed., February 15
Data Requests to Joint Petitioners - Rolling Discovery through March 10	Thurs., February 2 Through Fri., March 10
Joint Petitioners' Responses to Data Requests (7 days for all responses)	Fri., March 17
Technical Session	Wed., March 22 9:30 a.m.
Responses to follow-up discovery questions	Mon., March 27

Staff and Labor Interveners Direct Testimony	Fri., March 31
Data Requests to Staff and Interveners	Thurs., April 6
Staff and Interveners Responses to Data Requests	Thurs., April 13
Technical Session/Settlement Conference	Tues., April 18 9:30 a.m.
Responses to follow-up discovery questions	Wed., April 19
Joint Petitioners' Rebuttal Testimony (workpapers provided to parties but not filed)	Fri., April 21 (at 12:00 noon)
Technical Session/Settlement Conference	Tues., April 25 9:30 a.m.
<b>Hearing</b>	<b>Thurs., April 27 9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Hearing</b>	<b>Fri., April 28 9:30 a.m.</b>
Post-Hearing Briefs	Mon., May 15
Order – proposed target issuance date (to meet 6/30/17 merger closing date)	Tues., May 30

In addition, the following procedures will be applicable in the event of any discovery disputes:

- (1) Objections to data requests would be due within 4 calendar days;
- (2) Motion to compel must be filed within 5 calendar days from the date of objection; and
- (3) Objection to any motion to compel must be filed within 3 calendar days following the filing of the motion.

For administrative efficiency, the Commission has elected to issue this secretarial letter as its initial prehearing order in this proceeding.

Sincerely,



Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director

cc: Docket File  
Service List

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## SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES- DOCKET RELATED

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**Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.**

Executive.Director@puc.nh.gov  
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov  
bmetge@fairpoint.com  
david.wiesner@puc.nh.gov  
lisa.m.cleveland@puc.nh.gov  
michael.ladam@puc.nh.gov  
mike.shultz@consolidated.com  
mreed@fairpoint.com  
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov  
pmchugh@fairpoint.com  
pphillips@primmer.com  
robert.meehan@fairpoint.com  
scott.j.rubin@gmail.com  
sgeiger@orr-reno.com  
william.c.black@me.com

Docket #: 16-872-1      Printed: February 03, 2017

### **FILING INSTRUCTIONS:**

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:
- DEBRA A HOWLAND  
EXEC DIRECTOR  
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- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.