

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**Inter-Department Communication**

DATE: July 23, 2019
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM:  Cath Mullholand, Director – Regulatory Innovation and Strategy Division

SUBJECT: DT 19-117, Granite State Telephone, Inc.
Petition to Modify Service Territory Boundaries with Consolidated
Communications of Northern New England Company, LLC d/b/a
Consolidated Communications - NNE
Staff Recommendation

TO: Commissioners
Debra A. Howland, Executive Director

CC: David K. Wiesner, Director, Legal Division

On July 2, 2019, Granite State Telephone, Inc. (GST) filed a petition to modify service territory boundaries with Consolidated Communications of Northern New England Company, LLC d/b/a Consolidated Communications - NNE (CCI)¹ pursuant to RSA 374:30, II. According to the petition, GST proposes that two separate areas of CCI territory be transferred to GST. Staff notes that CCI did not join in the petition but GST represents that CCI supports the petition and the proposed service territory boundary changes.

The first proposed boundary modification concerns customers living and working on the shores of Highland Lake, a body of water whose northern end is located in the Town of Washington, in Sullivan County, and whose southern end is located in the Town of Stoddard, in Cheshire County. Approximately 96 customers are located in the area affected by the proposed boundary change. Existing customers will not be affected by the change as GST asserts it has been serving these customers since 1975 or earlier.

The second proposed boundary modification involves a single customer, located on property in the Town of Chester, in Rockingham County, that is presently bisected by the boundary line between GST and CCI. The customer's home is currently located in GST territory and is served by GST. In 2018, the customer constructed a second home on the property, located in CCI's franchise territory. In light of the technical and economic efficiencies involved in using GST's existing facilities on the property, GST and CCI agreed that GST would serve that customer at both locations.

¹ GST's petition refers to Northern New England Telephone Operations, LLC d/b/a Consolidated Communications. CCI recently changed its name to Consolidated Communications of Northern New England Company, LLC d/b/a Consolidated Communications-NNE in Docket DT 19-021.

GST's filing requests a change to the Commission's records to reflect the territories actually served by GST. According to GST, CCI consented at all times to GST serving the affected customers and it also consents to GST's request to modify the boundaries to accurately reflect the areas actually served by GST.

GST is an established incumbent local exchange carrier, and it has a record of technical, managerial, and financial capability sufficient to maintain the obligations of an incumbent local exchange carrier as set forth in RSA 362:8 and RSA 374:22-p.

Staff has reviewed the filing and recommends that the Commission approve the petition by order *nisi*, requiring GST and CCI to file properly annotated tariff pages with the Commission along with two (2) copies of the relevant franchise maps no later than thirty (30) days from the effective date of the order, as required by N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1603.02. Staff further recommends that GST be subject to publication and notification requirements as set out below.

GST will cause a summary of the Commission's order *nisi* to be:

- (a) published once in a statewide newspaper of general circulation or of circulation in those portions of the State where the affected operations are conducted;
- (b) delivered to the Town Clerks of the Towns of Washington, Stoddard, and Chester; and
- (c) delivered to all customers located in the new areas of its franchise territory;

such publication and notification to be completed no later than fourteen (14) days from the date of the Commission's approval order *nisi* and to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission no later than ten (10) days from the date of publication and notification.

View Service Lists

 (../Regulatory/regulatory.htm)  (../ServiceLists/ViewServiceList.aspx)

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Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 19-117

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