

DT 01-154

**Verizon New Hampshire and Merrimack County Telephone Company  
Joint Petition to Modify Service Territory Boundaries**

**Order Nisi Approving Boundary Modifications**

**O R D E R   N O.   23,773**

**September 7, 2001**

On August 2, 2001, Verizon New Hampshire (VZ) and Merrimack County Telephone Company (MCT) (Companies), filed a joint petition, pursuant to RSA 374:30, to modify service territory boundaries of the Companies as described below and as depicted on revised franchise maps submitted with the petition.

The petition requests approval to modify service territory boundaries by

a) transferring a small portion of MCT's Melvin Village exchange to the VZ Center Sandwich exchange. There are presently ten (10) customers receiving service from MCT in this area. This territory is a subdivision within which certain customers are served by VZ and others are served by MCT. As a result, a clear boundary is not discernible and causes customer confusion.

b) transferring a small portion of VZ's Wolfeboro exchange to MCT's Melvin Village exchange. There are presently

six (6) customers receiving service from VZ in this area. This area is also a subdivision currently served in part by VZ and in part by MCT.

c) transferring a portion of VZ's Greenfield exchange to MCT's Antrim exchange. This territory would be difficult for VZ to serve, while MCT's facilities can be extended. There are presently no customers receiving VZ service in this area.

Verizon and MCT have agreed to grandfather existing customers who prefer to maintain service with their current provider. New services will be provided in accordance with the new franchise boundaries. All customers have been notified of the proposed boundary changes.

We find the petition to be for the public good. The transfer will facilitate efficient service and maintenance between the affected exchanges and will not impact existing customers who chose to remain with their current provider.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED NISI**, that the proposed franchise boundary changes between Merrimack County Telephone Company and Verizon New Hampshire are approved as filed; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that Verizon and Merrimack County Telephone Company 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 NH Admin. Rules, PUC 1603.02, along with two copies of the relevant maps; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Petitioners shall provide a copy of this order to the Town Clerks for Moultonborough, Tuftonboro and Bennington and to all customers affected by these changes, by first class mail, no later than September 14, 2001, and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before September 28, 2001; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that existing customers affected by these changes be given the choice to retain existing service or change provider without charge; 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 September 24, 2001; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than September 28, 2001; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that this Order Nisi, approving the proposed boundary modifications as filed, shall be effective October 8, 2001, unless the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this seventh day of September, 2001.

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Douglas L. Patch  
Chairman

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Susan S. Geiger  
Commissioner

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Nancy Brockway  
Commissioner

Attested by:

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Thomas B. Getz  
Executive Director and Secretary