

DT 05-202

GRANITE STATE TELEPHONE, INC. AND VERIZON NEW HAMPSHIRE

Joint Petition to Modify Service Territory Boundaries

Order *Nisi* Approving Boundary Modifications

O R D E R N O. 24,603

March 17, 2006

On December 27, 2005, Granite State Telephone, Inc (GST) and Verizon New Hampshire (Verizon) (collectively, the Companies) filed a petition under RSA 374:30 to modify certain service territory boundaries of the Companies in the Wason Pond section of Chester, New Hampshire, as described below and as depicted on the revised franchise maps submitted with the petition.

The parties have agreed to the transfer to GST of Verizon's basic exchange franchise (and thus Verizon's obligation to provide basic exchange service) in the northeast section of the Chester municipality known as Wason Pond. GST's current basic exchange service territory abuts the Wason Pond section and includes the vast majority of the remaining portion of the Chester municipality. In their petition, the Companies request approval to modify service territory boundaries to reflect the transfer. Currently there are no customers residing in the affected service area and there are no customers awaiting service. However, there is a proposed subdivision that will require service.

RSA 374:30 permits a utility to transfer some or all of its franchise territory to another utility upon a determination by the Commission that such transfer will be for the public good. The companies avow that no assets are being sold or transferred between the parties as a result of this agreement. The transfer will facilitate efficient service and maintenance in the

service area. Because there are no customers presently being served, there will be no disruption in service or change in terms or conditions of service. We thus find the petition to be for the public good and will authorize the requested change in franchise boundaries between the Companies.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED *NISI*, that subject to the effective date below, that the proposed franchise boundary change between GST and Verizon is approved as filed; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that GST and Verizon 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 new service be provided pursuant to the approved franchise boundaries; 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 or of circulation in those portions of the state where operations are conducted, such publication to be no later than March 27, 2006 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before April 17 2006; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Petitioners shall provide a copy of this order to the Town Clerk of Chester no later than March 27, 2006 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before April 17, 2006; 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 April 3, 2006; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than April 10, 2006; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order *Nisi* shall be effective April 17, 2006, unless the Petitioner fails 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 seventeenth day of March, 2006.

Thomas B. Getz
Chairman

Graham J. Morrison
Commissioner

Clifton C. Below
Commissioner

Attested by:

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director & Secretary