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February 16, 2006

Ms. Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Ms. Massaro:

We are filing, herewith, for effect March 18, 2006, tariff material consisting of:

RI PUC No. 15

Part/Section	Revision of Page(s)	Original of Pages	Supplement Of Pages
A/1	N/A	N/A	22

With this filing, Verizon Rhode Island (“Verizon RI”) proposes to change the business late payment charge from a calculation based upon the rate paid on 2-year Treasury notes¹ to a fixed charge of 1.5% per month. This change will make the business late payment charge equivalent to the residential late payment charge of 1.5% as proposed in Verizon RI’s February 3, 2006 filing, thereby addressing the concerns raised by the Division in its February 10, 2006 memorandum to the Commission. Furthermore, establishing a fixed charge of 1.5% will eliminate the expenses associated with IT changes and customer notification that are required annually under the current fluctuating rate structure.

¹ The current business late payment charge is calculated at an annual rate of interest which is the equivalent of the rate paid on two-year United States Treasury notes for the preceding 12 months ending June 30 on any year, plus 10%.

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Enclosed are an original and nine copies of the tariff material. Please return a copy of this letter with your stamp of receipt. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Vice President – Regulatory Affairs

Attachment

cc: Mr. Brian Kent

Verizon New England Inc.

1. Tariff Information and General Regulations
1.5 Responsibility of the Customer

1.5.3 Liability	
A.	In case of damage, loss, theft or destruction of equipment and facilities furnished by the Telephone Company, the customer may be required to pay the expense incurred by the Telephone Company to replace or restore the equipment and facilities to its original condition.

1.5.4 Notification for Termination of Service	
A.	The right is reserved to require notice of not less than ten days of the customer's desire to terminate the service.

1.5.5 Payment of Bills	
A.	The customer is responsible for payment of all charges for service in accordance with the following provisions. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bills are due when rendered and are payable at an office of the Telephone Company. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Delayed payment of bills may result in the interruption or discontinuance of the customer's service. 2. The customer is required to pay, in accordance with the Telephone Company's established collection and billing practice, all charges for exchange, end user access and private line services; MTS messages, including charges for messenger service; and for all services billed by the Telephone Company for other carriers. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The customer is held responsible for all charges for telephone service rendered at the customer's telephone, both exchange and MTS, including charges for MTS messages on which the charges have been made collect.
B. Late Payment	
1.	For business customers, all amounts outstanding 25 days or more from the date on which the bill for such amounts is mailed are subject to a late payment charge of 1.5%.
2.	The late payment charge does not apply to the following items. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Any disputed amount; however it is applicable to all undisputed portions of a bill on which a dispute is pending. b. Final accounts; however any late payment charges included in the balance on a final statement are still due.
C. Returned Check	— Whenever a check or draft presented for payment of service is not accepted by the institution on which it is written, a returned check charge applies, per check or draft written.

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To be implemented beginning with June 2006 billing