

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

**Public Utilities Commission**

**Minutes of Open Meeting Held August 1, 2003**

**Attendees: Chairman Elia Germani, Commissioner Kate Racine, Commissioner Robert Holbrook, Steve Frias, Cindy Wilson, Alan Nault and Luly Massaro.**

**Chairman Germani called the open meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission. A quorum was present.**

**Minutes of Open Meeting:** Chairman Germani asked for a motion to approve the draft Minutes of Open Meeting held on July 24, 2003. Commissioner Racine moved to approve the draft minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Holbrook and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**Competitive Telecommunications Service Providers:**

The following companies registered to operate in RI. The Division has reviewed the registrations and recommends approval of:

2262(P18) - New Access Communications LLC

2262(O18) - R2C Communications, Inc.

Chairman Germani asked for a motion and Commissioner Racine moved to approve the registrations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Holbrook and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The following companies submitted tariff revisions. The Division has reviewed the tariff filings and does not recommend suspension of:

3528 - Metro Teleconnect Companies, Inc.

2618 - AT&T Communications of NE, Inc.

3196 - Z-Tel Communications, Inc.

2486 - MCImetro Access Transmission Service LLC

2262(P8) - New Century Telecom, Inc.

2262(K) - SNET America, Inc.

2262(L10) - PaeTec Communications

2262(P7) - MCI WorldCom Communications, Inc.

The following company ceased operations and requested that its authority to operate be rescinded:

2262(U3) - Ameritech Communications International, Inc.

After review, Chairman Germani asked for a motion and Commissioner Racine moved to rescind the authority to operate of the company. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Holbrook and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**3535 – Verizon Rhode Island:** Verizon submitted a tariff filing proposing changes to Verizon's business service for effect August 10, 2003. The proposed change includes:

- The measured business basic exchange rate is increased from \$17.91 per month to \$19.95 per month.
- A 24-month term commitment is introduced for measured business basic exchange at a discounted rate of \$18.95 per month.
- The per message (per call) rate for business measured local usage is reduced to \$.0125 from \$.014.
- The per minute rate for business measured local usage is increased to \$.037 from \$.035.
- The Message Telecommunications Service (MTS / regional toll) rate for the first 0 - 600 minutes of monthly usage is increased to \$.12 per minute from \$.10 per minute. There is no change for minutes over 600.

After review, the Commission followed the Division's recommendation that the filing be allowed to go into effect without suspension.

**3400 – Examination of the Feasibility of Implementing a Debt Forgiveness Plan:**

Consideration of the Joint Addendum of the Advocacy Groups and Pascoag Utility District requesting that Pascoag be exempt from the proposed plan entitled "Long-Term Arrearage Management Solutions for RI" plan. After review, Chairman Germani moved to grant the motion noting that exemption should not indicate the Commission's approval of the plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Racine and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**3256 - Verizon Rhode Island:** This docket relates to the Commission's review of Verizon's services provided to Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs) and penalties under the Performance Assurance Plan (PAP). After review, Commissioner Racine moved to adopt Verizon's February 14, 2003 revised PAP with the reallocation of MOE and critical measures from UNE-P to UNE-L. Verizon's revised PAP is approved on an interim basis pending final approval. The Commission will proceed to schedule a technical session or hearing to address other modifications including those proposed by intervenors AT&T, Cox and MCI. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Holbrook and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**3483 & 3162 – Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC):** Discussion of these dockets was postponed.

There being not further business to discuss, the open meeting adjourned at 9:20 A.M.