**BEFORE THE**

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Joint Petition of Verizon Pennsylvania LLC and :

Verizon North LLC for Competitive Classification : P-2014-2446303

Of All Retail Services In Certain Geographic Areas, : P-2014-2446304

And For A Waiver Of Regulations For Competitive :

Services :

**PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER**

On October 6, 2014, Verizon Pennsylvania LLC and Verizon North LLC (collectively referred to as Verizon or “the Companies”) filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission separate Petitions pursuant to Section 3016(a) of the Public Utility Code seeking to declare as competitive all protected or noncompetitive retail services offered by Verizon within their Philadelphia, Erie, Scranton-Wilkes Barre, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Allentown and York service regions. The Petitions also request waivers of Commission regulations for competitive services. Pursuant to Section 5.14 of the Commission’s regulations, notice of the filings will be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on October 11, 2014 establishing a ten (10) day period for submitting formal Protests. On October 6, 2014, the Commission assigned the filings to the Office of Administrative Law Judge for an expedited process resulting in a certification of the record to the full Commission after the submission of main and reply briefs. Also on October 6, 2014, Verizon filed a Petition for Protective Order.

On October 9, 2014, the Commission issued a Prehearing Conference Notice establishing an Initial Prehearing Conference for this case for Thursday, October 23, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 1 of the Commonwealth Keystone Building in Harrisburg and assigning me as the Presiding Officer.

In accordance with Section 333 of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 333, and Sections 5.221-5.224 of the Commission’s regulations, 52 Pa.Code §§ 5.221-5.224, this Prehearing Conference Order is being issued.

ORDER

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That an Initial Prehearing Conference shall be held on **Thursday, October 23, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.** in Hearing Room 1 of the Commonwealth Keystone Building in Harrisburg.
2. That all parties shall review the regulations relating to discovery, specifically 52 Pa.Code § 5.331(b), which provides, among other things, that “a party shall initiate discovery as early in the proceedings as reasonably possible,” and 52 Pa.Code § 5.322, which encourages parties to exchange information on an informal basis. All parties are urged to cooperate in discovery. There are limitations on discovery and sanctions for abuse of the discovery process. 52 Pa.Code §§ 5.361, 5.371 – 5.372. **In light of the expedited process governing this matter, the parties are advised to commence discovery as early as possible.**
3. That on or before **Monday, October 20, 2014**, the parties shall serve me and each other with a Prehearing Conference Memorandum addressing:

a.) The name, business address, business telephone number and business e-mail address of the person they wish to have listed on the service list.

b.) A statement regarding possible settlement of the case, subject to approval of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

c.) Any proposed modifications to the Commission’s discovery regulations.

d.) **A proposed schedule for litigation concluding with Reply Briefs due on or before Friday, January 16, 2015**.

e.) Names, business addresses, and telephone numbers of witnesses the party expects to call and the subject matter of each witnesses’ testimony.

f.) A list of the issues and sub-issues of this proceeding which the party intends to address and a statement of the party’s position on each of the issues and sub-issues listed.

g.) The need for public input hearings, if any.

h.) Any opposition to the Petition for Protective Order filed by Verizon on October 6, 2014.

1. That absent a continuance for good cause, all parties must be prepared to participate in the scheduled prehearing conference. Failure of a party to participate in the conference, after being served with notice of the time thereof, without good case shown, shall constitute a waiver of all objections to the agreements reached and an order or ruling with respect thereto. Parties who wish to remain on the service list for this proceeding must appear at the Initial Prehearing Conference or otherwise formally indicate their intent to remain on the service list by filing an appropriate pleading.
2. That pursuant to 52 Pa.Code §§ 1.21 – 1.23, you may represent yourself, if you are an individual, or you may have an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or admitted *pro hac vice*, represent you. However, if you are a partnership, corporation, trust, association, or governmental agency or subdivision, you must have an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or admitted *pro hac vice*, represent you in this proceeding. Unless you are an attorney, you may not represent someone else. Attorneys shall insure that their appearance is entered in accordance with the provisions of 52 Pa.Code § 1.24(b).
3. That you must serve me directly with a copy of any document that you file in this proceeding. If you send me any correspondence or document, you must send a copy to all other parties. My address is:

Joel H. Cheskis

 Administrative Law Judge

 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

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For your convenience, a copy of the Commission’s current service list of the parties to this proceeding is enclosed with this Order.

1. That parties shall review the regulations pertaining to prehearing conferences, in particular 52 Pa.Code §5.222(d), which provides that parties and counsel will be expected to attend the conference fully prepared for useful discussion of all problems involved in the proceeding, both procedural and substantive, and fully authorized to make commitments with respect thereto. The preparation should include, among other things, advance study of all relevant materials, and advance informal communication between the participants, including requests for additional data and information, to the extent it appears feasible and desirable.

1. That pursuant to 52 Pa.Code §1.55, each party shall be limited to one entry on the service list.
2. That parties serving pre-served testimony pursuant to 52 Pa.Code § 5.412(f) shall be required, within thirty (30) days after the final hearing, to either eFile with or provide to the Secretary’s Bureau a Compact Disc (CD) containing all testimony furnished to the court reporter during the proceeding, consistent with the Commission’s Implementation Order, dated January 10, 2013, at Docket No. M-2012-2331973.
3. That a request for a change of the scheduled Initial Prehearing Conference date shall state the agreement or opposition of other parties, and shall be submitted in writing no later than five (5) days prior to the initial prehearing conference. 52 Pa.Code §1.15(b). Requests for change must be sent to me with copies to all parties of record.

Date: October 9, 2014

 Joel H. Cheskis

 Administrative Law Judge

**P-2014-2446303 & P-2014-2446304**

**Joint Petition of Verizon Pennsylvania LLC and Verizon North LLC for Competitive Classification of all Retail Services in Certain Geographic Areas, and for a Waiver of Regulations for Competitive Services**

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