

BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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PA.P.U.C.
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

Verizon North Inc. : R-00061914
2007 Price Change Opportunity Filing : P-00001854F1000

Office of Small Business Advocate

v.

Verizon North Inc.

DOCKETED
FEB 28 2007

R-00061914C0001

**DOCUMENT
FOLDER**

PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER

A Telephonic Initial Prehearing Conference is scheduled in this case for Friday, March 9, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., with all parties calling in to the conference call number previously provided. The parties are hereby directed to comply with the following requirements:

1. A request for a change of the scheduled Prehearing Conference date must state the agreement or opposition of other parties, and must be filed no later than five (5) days prior to the Prehearing Conference. 52 Pa.Code §1.15(b). Requests for changes of Prehearing Conference dates must be sent to me and all parties of record. The correct address is: Administrative Law Judge Kandace F. Melillo, P.O. Box 3265, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265. Changes are granted only in rare situations where good cause exists. In accordance with the foregoing, absent a continuance for good cause, all parties must be prepared to participate in the scheduled Prehearing Conference.

2. Parties should review the regulations pertaining to prehearing conferences in rate cases, including 52 Pa. Code §5.222, which is applicable to rate proceedings by virtue of 52 Pa. Code §5.224(a)(1) and (g). Particular attention should be given to 52 Pa. Code §5.222(d) which provides, in part:

(d) 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. (Emphasis added.)

3. Each party must file and serve, at least 48 hours before the Prehearing Conference, a prehearing conference memorandum which sets forth the history of the proceeding, the issues that you intend to present, a listing of your proposed witnesses and the subject of their testimony. The parties have already agreed to accept the procedural schedule adopted in the Verizon Pennsylvania, Inc. 2007 PCO proceeding for the Verizon North Inc. PCO proceeding, and I intend to consolidate the two proceedings for hearing and decision.

4. The parties are to inform me at the Prehearing Conference as to whether public input hearings should be scheduled.

5. Parties should review the regulations relating to discovery, specifically 52 Pa.Code §5.331(b), which provides, *inter alia*, 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, and advise me at the prehearing conference as to discovery problems which have not been resolved. There are limitations on discovery and sanctions for abuse of the discovery process. 52 Pa.Code §§5.361, 5.371-3.572. Upon the filing by Verizon North Inc. of a Petition for Protective Order, a Protective Order will be issued to protect the confidentiality of Verizon North Inc-specific material.

6. Pursuant to 52 Pa.Code §§1.21 & 1.22, 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. Otherwise, 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).

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

Date: February 23, 2007

Kandace F. Melillo
Kandace F. Melillo
Administrative Law Judge

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