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BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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

Office of Small Business Advocate : R-00061914C0001

v.

Verizon North Inc.

and

Verizon Pennsylvania, Inc. : R-00061915
2007 Price Change Opportunity Filing : P-00930715F1000

Office of Small Business Advocate : R-00061915C0001

v.

Verizon Pennsylvania Inc.

ORDER SUSPENDING PROCEDURAL ORDER

A Telephonic Conference was held in these consolidated cases on Thursday, April 5, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., for the purpose of ascertaining whether the procedural schedule set forth in the Revised Procedural Order should be suspended. All parties were represented on the conference call by the following counsel: Suzan Paiva, Esquire, on behalf of Verizon Pennsylvania, Inc. ("Verizon PA") and Verizon North Inc. ("Verizon North"); Steven C. Gray, Esquire, on behalf of the Office of Small Business Advocate ("OSBA"); Joel Cheskis, Esquire, on behalf of the Office of Consumer Advocate ("OCA"); and Robert V. Eckenrod, Esquire, on behalf of the Office of Trial Staff ("OTS").

This matter had been scheduled for a Further Telephonic Prehearing Conference; however, the matter had inadvertently not been scheduled for a court reporter. The parties elected to proceed at 10 a.m. rather than wait to see whether a court reporter could be obtained by 10:30 a.m.

The parties discussed the procedural posture of the case. It was noted that, by Order entered March 22, 2007, the Commission had addressed certified questions concerning whether the two new issues in the 2007 Verizon PA/Verizon North PCO proceedings should be bifurcated and addressed separately pending a Final Commission Order in the 2006 PCO proceedings. Therein, the Commission had ruled that the issues should not be bifurcated, but that if a Final Commission Order in the 2006 PCO proceedings was not entered by March 28, 2007, the parties would be provided an additional five (5) months from the date of entry of the Final Commission Order in the 2006 PCO proceedings to address all issues in the 2007 PCO proceedings. The Commission Order concerning the 2006 PCO proceedings, at Docket Nos. R-00051227 and R-00051228, was entered on March 22, 2007; however, the Commission acknowledged uncertainty concerning whether the 2006 PCO proceedings would be final by March 28, 2007 due to the possibility of petitions for reconsideration/clarification.

During the Telephonic Conference, counsel for Verizon PA and Verizon North indicated that Verizon PA and Verizon North were definitely filing the next day for reconsideration of the Commission's 2006 PCO Order. The parties agreed that, under the circumstances, the March 22, 2007, Commission Order could not be considered final, and that the procedural schedule formerly established for the 2007 PCO proceedings should therefore be suspended. The five (5) month time frame for litigation of the 2007 PCO proceedings would begin to run from either the entry date of the Final Commission Order on Reconsideration or from April 23, 2007, if the Commission has not acted upon Verizon/Verizon North's reconsideration petition by that date. Of course, if the Commission denies the reconsideration petition before April 23, 2007, then the five (5) month time period would begin to run from that entry date. It was determined that another Prehearing Conference would be appropriately scheduled after the five (5) month litigation period had commenced.

I inquired as to whether the parties wanted to be reconnected to the call if a court reporter for the Further Telephonic Prehearing Conference was obtained. All parties agreed that this would not be necessary. I assured the parties that, if a court reporter was obtained, I would summarize the previous discussions from the Telephonic Conference on the record and would indicate that an Order suspending the procedural schedule would be forthcoming.

At approximately 10:30 a.m., I was informed that a court reporter had been obtained and I therefore contacted John Kelly, the court reporter with Commonwealth Reporting, for the Further Telephonic Prehearing Conference. The Further Telephonic Prehearing Conference was held and was transcribed. The parties were not contacted again as they had all previously indicated that this would not be necessary. During the Further Telephonic Prehearing Conference, I summarized the material discussed during the Telephonic Conference, as set forth herein.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the procedural schedule and related dates set forth in the Revised Procedural Order, issued in this matter on March 9, 2007, are hereby suspended until further notice.
2. That the parties will be notified of the scheduling of a further Prehearing Conference to establish a new procedural schedule at the appropriate time, consistent with this Order.

Date: April 5, 2007

Kandace F. Melillo
Kandace F. Melillo
Administrative Law Judge