



OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE

555 Walnut Street, 5th Floor, Forum Place
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101-1923
(717) 783-5048
800-684-6560 (in PA only)

IRWINA. POPOWSKY
Consumer Advocate

FAX: (717) 783-7152
consumer@paoca.org

ORIGINAL

November 17, 2006

PA PUC
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

2006 NOV 17 PM 3:57

RECEIVED

James J. McNulty, Secretary
PA Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Bldg.
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: 2006 Annual Price Stability Index/Service
Price Index Filing of Denver & Ephrata
Telephone and Telegraph Company
Docket No. P-00981430F1000; R-00061377

DOCUMENT
FOLDER

2006 Annual Price Stability Index/Service
Price Index Filing of Buffalo Valley
Telephone Company
Docket No. P-00981428F1000; R-00061375

2006 Annual Price Stability Index/Service
Price Index Filing of Conestoga Telephone &
Telegraph Company
Docket No. P-00981429F1000; R-00061376

Dear Secretary McNulty:

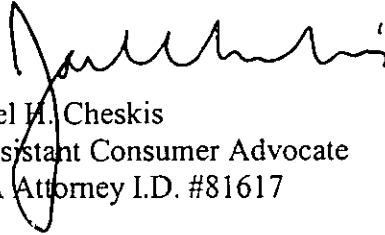
Enclosed please find for filing an original and three (3) copies of the Office of Consumer Advocate's Notice of Intervention and Public Statement in the above-captioned proceeding.

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Page 2

Copies have been served upon all parties of record as shown on the attached Certificate of Service.

Sincerely,



Joel W. Cheskis
Assistant Consumer Advocate
PA Attorney I.D. #81617

Enclosures

cc: All parties of record
Office of Special Assistants
Hon. Susan D. Colwell, ALJ

*91609

BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

ORIGINAL

2006 Annual Price Stability Index/Service :
 Price Index Filing of Denver & Ephrata :
 Telephone and Telegraph Company :
 : Docket No. P-00981430F1000; R-00061377

2006 Annual Price Stability Index/Service :
 Price Index Filing of Buffalo Valley :
 Telephone Company :
 : Docket No. P-00981428F1000; R-00061375

2006 Annual Price Stability Index/Service :
 Price Index Filing of Conestoga Telephone :
 & Telegraph Company :
 : Docket No. P-00981429F1000; R-00061376

NOTICE OF INTERVENTION

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Sections 5.71-74, the Office of Consumer Advocate hereby gives Notice of Intervention in the above-captioned proceeding. A copy of all correspondence and notices, documents, orders or other communications with respect to the above-captioned proceeding should be addressed to the following:

Joel H. Cheskis
 Assistant Consumer Advocate
 PA Attorney I.D. #81617
 Email: jcheskis@paoca.org
 Office of Consumer Advocate
 555 Walnut Street 5th Floor, Forum Place
 Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923
 Phone: (717) 783-5048
 Fax: (717) 783-7152

Respectfully submitted,



Joel H. Cheskis
 Assistant Consumer Advocate
 PA Attorney I.D. #81617
 Email: jcheskis@paoca.org

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DOCKETED
NOV 21 2006

DATED: 11/17/06

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PUBLIC STATEMENT OF THE
OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE
PURSUANT TO 71 P.S. SECTION 309-4(e)

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Act 161 of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, 71 P.S. § 309-2, as enacted July 19, 1976, authorizes the Consumer Advocate to represent the interests of Pennsylvania consumers before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PUC" or "Commission"). In accordance with Act 161, and for the following reasons, the Consumer Advocate determined to file a Notice of Intervention to represent the interests of Pennsylvania telephone consumers in the matter involving the Commission's reconsideration of its June 23, 2006 Order which allowed Denver & Ephrata Telephone & Telegraph Company, Conestoga Telephone Company and Buffalo Valley Telephone Company ("the Companies") to raise intrastate access charges.

On June 23, 2006, the Commission adopted an Order approving the Companies' respective 2006 Annual Price Stability Index/Service Price Index filings that were filed pursuant to their alternative regulation plans under Chapter 30 of the Public Utility Code. In response to that June 23rd Order, the Companies raised their intrastate access charges. Access charges are the rates paid by one company to another to originate or terminate a call on the other company's network. On November 15, 2006, however, the Commission determined to reconsider its June 23, 2006 Order and hold further hearings to examine, among other things, how the Companies' increases in intrastate access charges may affect the Pennsylvania Universal Service Fund.

The Consumer Advocate has determined to intervene and participate in this proceeding to protect the interests of Pennsylvania's telecommunications users: Chapter 30 of the Public Utility Code generally prohibits the Commission from ordering the Companies to reduce access rates except on a revenue-neutral basis. As such, if the Companies' access rates are reduced, the Companies' may seek to increase other rates, such as their basic local service rate, in order to be

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revenue-neutral. The Companies are also generally prohibited from raising monthly basic local service rates beyond an \$18 rate cap, unless increases above \$18 are obtained from the state universal service fund. The \$18 rate cap is an important protection for customers of Pennsylvania rural incumbent local exchange companies.

Important issues will be raised in this reconsideration proceeding. The Consumer Advocate determined to file a Notice of Intervention and participate in this proceeding to protect the interests of the Companies' customers.

91602

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Re: 2006 Annual Price Stability Index/Service Price Index Filing of Denver & Ephrata Telephone and Telegraph Company
Docket No. P-00981430F1000; R-00061377
2006 Annual Price Stability Index/Service Price Index Filing of Buffalo Valley Telephone Company
Docket No. P-00981428F1000; R-00061375
2006 Annual Price Stability Index/Service Price Index Filing of Conestoga Telephone & Telegraph Company
Docket No. P-00981429F1000; R-00061376

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing document, Office of Consumer Advocate's Notice of Intervention and Public Statement, upon parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant), in the manner and upon the persons listed below:

Dated this 17th day of November, 2006.

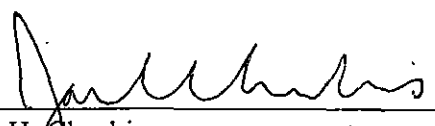
SERVICE BY INTER-OFFICE MAIL

Office of Trial Staff
Pa. Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Bldg.
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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Thomas Thomas Armstrong & Niesen
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Harrisburg, PA 17108-9500


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