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| PUC logo | COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  P.O. BOX 3265, HARRISBURG, PA 17105-3265 | **IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO OUR FILE**  Docket No.  P-2014-2446303  P-2014-2446304 |

**May 20, 2015**

**VERIZON COMPETITIVE CLASSIFICATION DATA COLLECTION**

**REquest for comments and reply comments**

**Re: 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, Docket Nos. P-2014-2446303 and P-2014-2446304**

**TO ALL PARTIES:**

On March 4, 2015, the Commission issued its Opinion and Order in the above-captioned consolidated proceeding (*Reclassification Order*). The *Reclassification Order* granted in part, and denied in part, the Verizon Pennsylvania LLC and Verizon North LLC (collectively, Verizon) Joint Petition for competitive classification of certain retail services in specific geographic areas pursuant to Section 3016(a) of the Public Utility Code (Code), 66 Pa. C.S. § 3016(a), and for an eleven-year waiver of parts of Chapter 63 and all of Chapter 64 of our Regulations in Title 52 of the Pennsylvania Code.

The *Reclassification Order* confirms Verizon’s statutory duty to provide “adequate, efficient, safe, and reasonable service and facilities” as well as service that is “reasonably continuous and without unreasonable interruptions or delay” under 66 Pa. C.S. § 1501 in the entirety of its service territory. *Reclassification Order* at 7, 125, Ordering Paragraph 5. Under that same Public Utility Code provision, and regardless of the competitive classification of any wire center, Verizon is the carrier of last resort (COLR) throughout its service territory. *Id.* at 125, Ordering Paragraph 6. The *Reclassification Order* also enumerates important regulatory requirements unaffected by the competitive classification of standalone basic local exchange telephone services in any Verizon wire center. These include:

* 911 obligations;
* Chapter 30 Plan network deployment commitments including the provision of ubiquitous broadband service;
* Lifeline service responsibilities under Chapter 30;
* The wholesale interconnection obligations of applicable federal and Pennsylvania law under which many competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) and interexchange carriers (IXCs) operate;
* Intrastate switched and special access rates and services and the ordering, installation, restoration, and disconnection of such access services; and
* Payment of regulatory assessments and contributions to the Pennsylvania Universal Service Fund (Pa USF).

*Id*. at 7-8. The *Reclassification Order* neither affected these important legal and policy safeguards nor did it alter statutory obligations imposed by Chapter 30 of the Public Utility Code.

The *Reclassification Order* provides for continued Commission oversight of Verizon services provided to retail and wholesale customers affected by and consistent with that Order. To ensure that the *Reclassification Order* continues to support the public interest, the Commission conditioned its approval, in part, on Verizon compliance with the following Ordering Paragraph:

15. That Verizon Pennsylvania LLC and Verizon North LLC shall collect and report annually, for a period of two years, data under two categories: (1) Affordability of Basic Service; and (2) Quality of Service as further directed by the Commission.

*Reclassification Order* at 126, Ordering Paragraph 15. The purpose of the data collection is to help assess the market conditions present in the 153 wire centers determined to be competitive and to collect specific data and information to help assess how the market is developing in those wire centers. *Reclassification Order* at 104. To best utilize this information, and to better achieve the public interest goals of the *Reclassification Order*, the Order directed that “after receiving input from interested parties, the Commission’s Bureau of Technical Utility Services shall advise the Companies of the specific data to be provided, form requirements, and schedule for the reporting of this data.” *Id*.at 127, Ordering Paragraph 16.

The *Reclassification Order* contains considerable detail. To ensure complete compliance with the directives in the *Reclassification Order*, the Order requires Verizon to “comply with all recommendations, directives, and conclusions in this Opinion and Order that are not the subject of individual ordering paragraphs as fully as if they were the subject of specific ordering paragraphs.” *Id.,* Ordering Paragraph 18.

No Party sought clarification or reconsideration of any aspect of the *Reclassification Order* and no Party appealed; the data collection and submission directives of the *Reclassification Order* are now final and binding.

In accordance with Ordering Paragraphs 15 and 16 and the Commission’s Chapter 30 authority,[[1]](#footnote-2) the Commission has compiled a detailed list of the data to be collected and submitted to help assess the market conditions in competitive wire centers. The data is to be submitted to the Commission in a Microsoft Excel workbook, available in electronic format on the Commission’s Utility & Industry page for Telecommunications.

The Microsoft Excel workbook data covering calendar year 2015 shall be due April 1, 2016, and the data covering calendar year 2016 shall be due April 1, 2017. In addition to eFiling or submitting hardcopies of the data at the above dockets, Verizon shall send electronic copies to [RA-PC-VzReclass@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PC-VzReclass@pa.gov) in Microsoft Excel format.

Parties to the proceeding at the above dockets are invited to provide comments and reply comments on the specific data, form, and reporting schedules that we have compiled for inclusion in the Microsoft Excel workbook. Comments are due in-hand to the Secretary within **fifteen (15) calendar days** of this Letter, with reply comments due in-hand **ten (10) calendar days** thereafter. All comments and replies shall be filed at the above docket numbers. Parties shall serve and accept comments and reply comments electronically along with hard copies, in conformance with our regulations. An appropriate motion shall accompany any late filed comment or reply, showing good cause for delay.

Please direct any questions to Derek Vogelsong, Bureau of Technical Utility Services, at (717) 787-3861 or devogelson@pa.gov; or Lenora Best, Bureau of Consumer Services, at (717) 783‑9090 or lebest@pa.gov.

 Sincerely,

# Rosemary Chiavetta

Secretary

1. *See,* 66 Pa. C.S. §§ 3019(b)(2) and (3); *see also*, 66 Pa. C.S. § 1501. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)