

BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Elisabeth A. Colbath-Czech

v.

Verizon Pennsylvania Inc.

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C-20066019

DOCUMENT
FOLDER

PREHEARING ORDER

An Initial Hearing in this case is scheduled for an available hearing room on the thirteenth floor of the Philadelphia State Office Building on Tuesday, August 15, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. Accordingly, the parties are hereby directed to comply with the following requirements:

1. You must serve me directly with a copy of any document that you file in this proceeding, at the time of filing. If you send me any correspondence or document, you must send a copy to all other parties. For your convenience, a copy of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's ("Commission" or "PUC") current service list of the parties to this proceeding is enclosed with this Order.

2. A request for a change of the scheduled hearing date must state the agreement or opposition of other parties, and must be submitted in writing no later than five (5) days prior to the hearing. 52 Pa. Code § 1.15(b). Requests for changes of hearing dates must be sent to me and all parties of record. The correct address is: Administrative Law Judge Angela T. Jones, 1302 Philadelphia State Office Building, 1400 West Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130. Changes are granted only in rare situations where good cause exists.

3. **YOU MAY LOSE THIS CASE IF YOU DO NOT TAKE PART IN THE HEARING AND PRESENT EVIDENCE ON THE ISSUES RAISED.**

4. The hearing is a formal proceeding and will be conducted in accordance with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

5. If you intend to introduce any exhibits into evidence at the hearing, you must supply an original and one copy for the court reporter, a copy for me, and one copy for each other party. Proposed exhibits should be properly pre-marked for identification purposes.

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. 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).

7. THE COMPLAINANT BEARS THE BURDEN OF PROOF IN THIS PROCEEDING AND MUST SHOW BY A PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE THAT THE RESPONDENT HAS VIOLATED THE PUBLIC UTILITY CODE OR A REGULATION OR AN ORDER OF THE COMMISSION SO THAT THE COMPLAINANT IS ENTITLED TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED IN THE COMPLAINT.

8. If you intend to subpoena witnesses for the hearing, you should review the procedures established in 52 Pa. Code § 5.421. You must submit your written application to me sufficiently in advance of the hearing date so the other parties will have the required ten (10) days' notice to answer or object, and so you will have enough time to receive the subpoena and serve it.

9. Any party may conduct discovery to learn the factual basis of another party's position in this case. However, 52 Pa. Code § 5.331(b) provides, in relevant part, that "[a] party shall initiate discovery as early in the proceedings as reasonably possible." Additionally, 52 Pa.

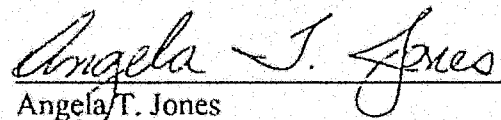
Code § 5.322 provides, in relevant part, that "parties are encouraged to exchange information on an informal basis." Parties are urged to cooperate in informal information exchanges and in conducting discovery. There are limitations on discovery (52 Pa. Code § 5.361) and sanctions for abuse of the discovery process (52 Pa. Code §§ 5.371 & 5.372).

10. Commission policy is to encourage settlements. 52 Pa. Code § 5.231(a). Therefore, you are urged to discuss informally between yourselves the possible settlement of this case at least one week before the hearing. If you are unable to settle this case, you may still resolve as many questions or issues as possible during your informal discussion.

11. Complainant is cautioned that the Commission does not have the authority to provide compensation for her lost time. The Commission can, however, fine Verizon for inadequate telecommunications services.

12. Complainant should be prepared to provide any evidence that Verizon required her to be physically available to the technician making the repair for her telecommunications service.

Date: June 20, 2006


Angela T. Jones
Administrative Law Judge