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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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 : Docket No.
Linda Lesko v. Verizon North, Incorporated : C-00014886
 Extended Area Service Complaint. :
 ----- x
Mary Ann Kaschalk v. Verizon North, : Docket No.
Incorporated : C-20015851
 Extended Area Service Complaint. :
 :
 Local Hearing :
 ----- x
 Pages 44 through 147 The Sleep Inn
 453 Theatre Drive
 Johnstown, Pennsylvania

Wednesday, October 24, 2001

Met, pursuant to notice, at 7:07 p.m.
FOLDER

BEFORE:

JOHN H. CORBETT, JR., Administrative Law Judge

APPEARANCES:

NOV 09 2001

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460 Leidy Lane
Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15909
(Pro Se)

LOUISE A. KNIGHT, Esquire
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(For the Respondent)

J.M.
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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE JOHN CORBETT: I'm
3 going to open the record at this time. This is the time
4 and place that the Pennsylvania Public Utility
5 Commission has set for a local hearing on the complaints
6 of Linda Lesko and Mary Ann Kaschalk versus Verizon
7 North, Incorporated.

8 My name is John and I am the
9 Administrative Law Judge the Commission has appointed to
10 preside over this hearing and to render an initial
11 decision for the Commission to consider. At this time,
12 I would like to introduce to you the attorney for
13 Verizon who is to my immediate right. That is Louise
14 Knight.

15 I want to take a minute to summarize for
16 you what this case is about. This action commenced when
17 Linda Lesko and Mary Ann Kaschalk filed formal
18 complaints with the Commission. The complaints
19 challenge the reasonableness and adequacy of the local
20 calling area incorporated within Verizon's Johnstown
21 exchange.

22 Specifically, Ms. Lesko and Ms. Kaschalk
23 each have requested the Commission direct Verizon North
24 to extend the local calling area for their particular
25 exchange which has an NXX of 814-322 to include the

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1 Ebensburg exchange of 814-472. They are claiming this
2 extended area of service, or EAS, will better serve
3 their needs. It will be less expensive and it will be
4 more convenient for themselves and their neighbors
5 because their community of interest lies in Ebensburg
6 and not in Johnstown.

7 Verizon North has answered these
8 complaints. Verizon submits the local calling area of a
9 telephone exchange is determined by the areas in which
10 the majority of customers within that exchange place
11 calls. The boundaries of a telephone exchange do not
12 necessarily coincide with municipal or school district
13 boundaries. The Johnstown exchange in which Ms. Lesko
14 and Ms. Kaschalk receive service, incorporates a local
15 calling area that includes the exchanges of Beaverdale,
16 Davidsville, Johnstown Nanty Glo, Seward, South Fork and
17 Windber.

18 Verizon North avers customers within the
19 Johnstown exchange do not qualify for local calling to
20 the Ebensburg exchange because the company's last Toll
21 Traffic Study conducted in 1997 showed insufficient toll
22 traffic from the Johnstown exchange to the Ebensburg
23 exchange to meet the minimum requirements under the
24 Commission's regulations for subscriber polling and
25 EAS.

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1 The purpose of the local hearing this
2 evening is to obtain the testimony of those persons who
3 claim to have an interest in the subject matter of this
4 case. The Commission wants to hear from those people
5 most affected by the current state of Johnstown's local
6 calling area --- those customers within the 814-322
7 exchange of Verizon North. I am interested in hearing
8 what you have to say about whether the current local
9 calling area of the Johnstown exchange serves your
10 community of interest.

11 Further evidentiary hearings will be held
12 at the State Office Building in Pittsburgh sometime
13 within the next several months. During these hearings,
14 Verizon North will respond to the testimony we hear this
15 evening. By law, I must submit my initial decision on
16 this case to the Commission within 90 days of when the
17 record closes which will be sometime during the winter
18 months of 2002. The Commission will take several months
19 after that to consider this matter.

20 With that background, let me ask whether
21 Ms. Knight has any opening statement to make at this
22 time?

23 MS. KNIGHT: No, Your Honor. I believe
24 you adequately summarized the position of the parties.

25 JUDGE CORBETT: Previously, we had placed

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1 in the back of the room, in the hall, sign-in sheets for
2 people to print their names, addresses and telephone
3 numbers if you wish to speak at this hearing. When
4 called, you'll be asked to take an oath or affirmation.
5 Then you'll each be called to testified in turn. The
6 Court Reporter will transcribe your statement. Your
7 statement will then become a part of the official record
8 of this case and may be considered by me as well as by
9 the Commission in deciding this case.

10 Since you are a witness, the attorney
11 here representing Verizon North may ask you questions
12 about your testimony. You should not become upset by
13 this questioning or feel that you are under personal
14 attack. Such questioning is entirely normal for this
15 time of legal proceeding. I ask simply that you listen
16 to the questions asked of you and that you answer the
17 questions that may be asked of you to the best of your
18 ability. If any questions are improper, I will let you
19 know.

20 At this time, I will call the names of
21 those people who signed the Witness List and who have
22 indicated they wish to testify. As I call your name,
23 please stand and remain standing until I have called the
24 last name. I will then ask you to take the oath or
25 affirmation of a witness.

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1 The first is Representative Thomas
2 Yewcic. And if I mispronounce your name or don't get it
3 correct, please let me know. The handwriting I can't
4 quite make out; David B. ---?

5 MR. SOMOGYI: Somogyi.

6 JUDGE CORBETT: Somogyi. Very good, sir.

7 Would you stand, please. Thank you. Debbie
8 Deetscreek, the Reverend Lynn Sanner, Linda Lesko, David
9 Cobaugh. Is that Herbert Boltin? That's William Penn
10 Avenue.

11 MR. BRITTON: Are you sure that isn't
12 Harold Britton on there?

13 JUDGE CORBETT: Harold Britton; probably.
14 I'm sorry, sir. That's not a reflection on your
15 penmanship or my reading. We'll take it in good humor.
16 Lori Curly, Vincent Brisini, Karen Stickler.

17 Now those are all the people who have
18 indicated that they wish to testify at this hearing. Is
19 there anyone else who wishes to testify that I have not
20 called? Well, I don't have any that are checked off.
21 Karen Nagy, Joe Baxter and Patty Allbaugh? Okay. Very
22 good. Is there anyone else? Yes, sir?

23 MR. ANGELO: Jim Angelo.

24 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Anyone else?

25 MS. DESKEVICH: Eileen Deskevich.

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1 MS. BERDOMAS: Wendy Berdomas.

2 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. We may have you
3 say your name and spell it when we call you to testify.

4 Anyone else? All right. Will these
5 witnesses then please raise your right hand and please
6 take the oath or affirmation?

7 (Witnesses sworn en masse.)

8 JUDGE CORBETT: All right. You may be
9 seated. A few more observations before I call the first
10 witness.

11 First, if you are reading from a prepared
12 statement and you have an extra copy of your statement
13 with you, please give it to the Court Reporter before
14 you start to testify.

15 Second, this is a legal hearing.
16 Everyone who is called to testify is a member of the
17 public. Each witness has the right to give their
18 testimony free from any interruptions, comments from
19 others and the like. If there is any interruption of
20 the testimony of any witness, I will recess the hearing
21 until order is restored. If the hearing is repeatedly
22 interrupted, I will terminate the hearing.

23 Third, I have not as yet imposed any time
24 limit on the testimony of witnesses. In light of the
25 number of people who desire to testify at this hearing,

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1 I do request that each person limit themselves to ten
2 minutes. Depending on how well this request is honored
3 and the number of witnesses able to testify as we
4 proceed through this hearing, I may impose a further
5 time limit. If I impose such a time limit, it will be
6 strictly enforced.

7 Fourth, when testifying, please do not
8 repeat testimony that has already been given by another
9 witness. Your testimony is just as valid by simply
10 stating that you have the same concerns about the issues
11 as others who have already testified. I can and I will
12 stop witnesses from giving testimony that is repetitious
13 or duplicates testimony already given by others.

14 Finally, I ask that you confine your
15 remarks to the issue involving EAS from the Johnstown
16 exchange to the Ebensburg exchange. If you have any
17 questions about this matter, you can talk to the
18 attorney here during a break in the hearing or
19 afterwards. If you have another concern about a matter
20 involving Verizon North or another utility, or the
21 commission, you can call the Commission's Bureau of
22 Consumer services at 1-800-782-1110 or 1-717-783-5187;
23 or the Office of Consumer Advocate at 1-800-684-6550.

24 With that, I'll call the first witness
25 for this hearing. When I call your name, you can come

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1 up to the center open area here. It's about the only
2 open area we have in the room; and I will ask that you
3 state your name, address, occupation and place of
4 employment for the record. I ask that you spell your
5 last name for the Court Reporter.

6 The first witness we have this evening is
7 Representative Tom Yewcic because of prior time
8 commitments. Thank you, sir.
9 Whereupon,

10 THOMAS YEWIC

11 having been previously sworn, testified as follows:

12 DIRECT TESTIMONY

13 MR. YEWIC: State Rep Tom Yewcic,
14 Y-E-W-C-I-C; 125 Pudliner Lane, Johnstown, PA 15909.

15 I'm a State Representative. I live in
16 the 322 prefix and also have an office in the Ebensburg
17 area with a 472 exchange. This is an important issue
18 for the people with the 322 prefix as you can see by the
19 turnout. We all had to drive at least a half an hour to
20 be here tonight because it is important. We identify
21 more closely with the Ebensburg area for a number of
22 reasons. It's the same school district. I have
23 children in the school district. And of course, it's
24 important to reach them and their friends. And it's an
25 inconvenience having it being a long-distance phone

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1 call.

2 A lot of phone calls aren't made to
3 Ebensburg quite frankly for that reason, because it is
4 long-distance; and we are forced to use cell phones and
5 other means to communicate; or have those people call
6 us, or we call them and then we have them call us right
7 back because it's local for them to call us.

8 Businesswise, many, many phone calls are
9 made, of course, in my line of work. I have many people
10 calling me at home, a lot of senior citizens. To them,
11 it's a serious nature when they call me at home and I
12 treat it as a serious nature. And of course, I have to
13 make those return phone calls from my home phone. A lot
14 of the business people in Jackson Township, of course,
15 are identified with Ebensburg area through the
16 businesses; the courthouse and such that it's important
17 that we do identify more with Ebensburg.

18 We're located in an area that's halfway
19 between Ebensburg and Johnstown, but we identify more
20 closely with the Ebensburg area; therefore, it makes no
21 sense to me, or to other residents, that we can call
22 places like Davidsville when we identify with Ebensburg
23 which is in our home district.

24 So I would request that you do consider
25 the request, the challenge, made by Linda Lesko, that we

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1 do have local calling service into the Ebensburg area.

2 Thank you, Your Honor.

3 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you. Ms. Knight,
4 do you have any questions of Representative Yewcic?

5 MS. KNIGHT: I just have a couple of
6 questions.

7 CROSS EXAMINATION

8 BY MS. KNIGHT:

9 Q. You gave a description of where your office is.
10 Can you explain what your district is?

11 A. My district is the 72nd Legislative District.
12 Geographically, it's from Ebensburg down to Stoystown,
13 Central City and Somerset County and wraps around the
14 City of Johnstown on the southern side.

15 Q. So it does not include Johnstown?

16 A. It does not include the City of Johnstown; no.

17 Q. And you have only one office and that's in
18 Ebensburg?

19 A. I have one in Ebensburg. I have one in Windber;
20 and I have one in Lower Yoder Township which is outside
21 of Johnstown.

22 Q. What's the first three digits on the one that's
23 outside Johnstown, if you know?

24 A. 536.

25 Q. And I believe you used the phrase identifies with

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1 the Ebensburg area. Can you explain, if the community
2 is halfway between Johnstown and Ebensburg, what the
3 nexus is particularly to Ebensburg?

4 A. Well, where I live, I'm seven or eight miles from
5 Johnstown. Well, Jackson is about five to seven miles
6 from Ebensburg. We're in the Central Cambria School
7 District. Most of the people who live there have
8 relatives, relations, kids in school that communicate
9 regularly. We all go to the same functions. We're the
10 same people. I think that's who we identify with. I
11 think most of the people who work in that area, half go
12 one direction and half go the other direction. It's
13 just one of those things where we're caught right in the
14 middle of two areas. And I think the balance should
15 sway toward the Ebensburg area for the simple reason
16 it's our home school district and most of our families
17 live in that direction.

18 MS. KNIGHT: Thank you. I have no
19 further questions.

20 MR. YEWIC: Thank you.

21 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you.

22 (Witness excused.)

23 JUDGE CORBETT: An individual has
24 indicated that she has some prior commitments and she
25 would like to be taken out of turn. That would be

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1 Debbie Deetscreek. Would you come forward, please.
2 Begin please by giving us your full name. You have a
3 statement that you want to give; all right. Would you
4 give a copy to the Court Reporter and I'll take one.

5 Ma'am, would you begin please by giving
6 us your full name. Spell your last name for the Court
7 Reporter, please.

8 MS. KNIGHT: Excuse me, Your Honor. May
9 I have the Court Reporter's copy until ---?

10 JUDGE CORBETT: Sure.

11 MS. DEETSCREEK: I can give you one.

12 MS. KNIGHT: Oh, you have one. Thank
13 you.

14 JUDGE CORBETT: Would you begin by giving
15 us your full name and spell your last name for the Court
16 Reporter, please.

17 Whereupon,

18 DEBORAH DEETSCREEK

19 having been previously sworn, testified as follows:

20 MS. DEETSCREEK: It's Deborah Deetscreek,
21 D-E-E-T-S-C-R-E-E-K.

22 JUDGE CORBETT: And your address?

23 MS. DEETSCREEK: 542 Leidy Lane,
24 Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15909.

25 JUDGE CORBETT: And what is your

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1 occupation?

2 MS. DEETSCREEK: I'm employed by the
3 Intermediate Unit 8 which is Special Education for four
4 counties. And my workplace and employer's main office
5 is in Ebersburg.

6 JUDGE CORBETT: And your telephone
7 number?

8 MS. DEETSCREEK: Area code
9 (814) 322-1981.

10 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Thank you. You
11 may testify.

12 DIRECT TESTIMONY

13 MS. DEETSCREEK: Again, I'm employed by
14 the Intermediate Unit. Our phone number is the number
15 for our residence and also for our construction business
16 that we operate. My husband operates from that
17 residence. There's only myself and my husband Ernest
18 that reside at our residence. And again, we operate the
19 business there. Approximately 20 percent of our
20 customer phone calls for the business are to the
21 Ebersburg area.

22 The telephone service that we currently
23 receives from Verizon is just a typical home service.
24 We pay a flat fee and have no special plans. Our
25 typical monthly phone bill is approximately \$35. I do

1 want to note though that we do contract with Verizon to
2 list our business in the yellow pages of the directory.
3 And for that privilege, we pay \$91.25 per month; so we
4 do have a financial interest.

5 We may calls to the Ebensburg area
6 exchange for several reasons. My workplace and
7 employer's office are both in Ebensburg. My daughter is
8 also employed by the Intermediate Unit, and her office
9 is in Ebensburg, also; so if I need to contact her from
10 my home during the workday, it's a toll call. The
11 primary supplier for our business is in Ebensburg in
12 addition to about 20 percent of our customers.

13 Emergency medical facilities that my
14 insurance company require that we use our in Ebensburg.
15 Also, offices of special needs, medical specialists such
16 as Gynecologists and Physical Therapists are in
17 Ebensburg. Our dentist is in Ebensburg. The
18 Accountants that we employ for the business are in
19 Ebensburg. The Veterinarian that we use is in
20 Ebensburg; and the bank that we use is in Ebensburg.
21 This is just a list of some of the places that it's
22 necessary to call from time to time. In addition;
23 shopping facilities, hairdresser, county offices located
24 at the Courthouse and family and friends that reside in
25 Ebensburg.

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1 It's a little more convenient for me
2 because my workplace is in Ebensburg and I make some of
3 these calls during my break and lunch from my office
4 phone. And also, since I'm already in Ebensburg during
5 the day, I tend to make appointments, visits and shop
6 while I'm already there eliminating the need for
7 unnecessary phone calls. Also, my husband will combine
8 visits to customers and picking up supplies so he does
9 not have to make unnecessary phone calls. We
10 consolidate a lot of what we do and also use e-mail when
11 possible.

12 If calling Ebensburg were toll-free from
13 our home phone, it would not only make it a little less
14 costly to us, but it would be a lot more convenient. We
15 appreciate all efforts to make this possible. Thank
16 you.

17 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you. Ms. Knight,
18 do you have any questions?

19 MS. KNIGHT: Just a couple of questions.

20 CROSS EXAMINATION

21 BY MS. KNIGHT:

22 Q. Have you been advised or are you familiar with any
23 of the optional calling plans available for Verizon
24 North customers in the Johnstown exchange to call
25 Ebensburg?

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1 A. Yes, ma'am. We just don't make enough calls to
2 make it any less expensive.

3 Q. So for the calling plan that requires the \$10
4 charge, in a month, you typically don't even make the
5 \$10 worth of calls?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Is that because you're in Ebensburg during the day
8 and ---?

9 A. Yes.

10 JUDGE CORBETT: Let me just caution ---
11 and this would apply to everyone. The Court Reporter is
12 taking down everything that you say and she can only
13 take down one side of the conversation at a time; so if
14 you'll let counsel ask the full question, counsel will
15 then you give you an opportunity to give a full
16 statement. Then she'll ask the next question; that way,
17 we'll get a clearer record; okay? We'll hold that true
18 for everybody that testifies. Thank you.

19 BY MS. KNIGHT:

20 Q. So the reason that you don't make more than \$10
21 worth of calls in a month is because you tend to be in
22 Ebensburg during the day and that's the normal business
23 hours for the places that you're calling; so you make
24 those calls while you're in Ebensburg?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. And you say that you have a residential service at
2 your home?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Your husband conducts his business on that service;
5 is that correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 MS. KNIGHT: I have no other questions,
8 Your Honor.

9 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you, Ms.
10 Deetscreek.

11 (Witness excused.)

12 JUDGE CORBETT: Sir, you gave me your
13 name before but I don't remember what it was.
14 David ---?

15 MR. SOMOGYI: Somogyi.

16 JUDGE CORBETT: Somogyi. Very good, sir.
17 Would you please come forward. I see someone has
18 prepared the witnesses who are going to talk here this
19 evening. We'll have you speak from the center of the
20 room, sir, if you don't mind.

21 Whereupon,

22 DAVE SOMOGYI

23 having been previously sworn, testified as follows:

24 DIRECT TESTIMONY

25 MR. SOMOGYI: Okay. My name is Dave

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1 Somogyi. I reside at 470 Rose Branch Street. Cur
2 address is Johnstown, but it's in the Vinco area. We
3 currently have the following phone service: 322-1802 is
4 our residential service under the rate call plan. I
5 have a shop down there which has the number 322-4869.
6 It's under the business rate plan. And also, I have a
7 business in Ebensburg. This business is located off of
8 Route 22 before you get to Ebensburg.

9 JUDGE CORBETT: Let me ask you, sir; what
10 is your occupation or trade?

11 MR. SOMOGYI: I'm self-employed.

12 JUDGE CORBETT: In what occupation, sir?

13 MR. SOMOGYI: We have a coal yard and
14 stone yard where we sell all kind of building materials
15 and domestic house materials.

16 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Thank you, sir.

17 MR. SOMOGYI: My family lives in Vinco I
18 have a son that attends Central Cambria High School
19 which was already mentioned by Mr. Yewcic. That's in a
20 472 exchange and it's a toll call for us to call. My
21 main concern is having my business located in a 472
22 exchange area. Most customers in the 322 area will not
23 place long-distance calls to my business. These
24 customers will call me at my residence which is a 322
25 exchange or our shop which is located in Vinco; and a

1 lot of messages are taken by other members of my family.

2 Also, the shop that we have down there, I
3 have a driver that's there every day. When he comes in
4 at night, he has to find out his schedule for the next
5 day which he has to call to Ebensburg every day to get
6 his schedule for what he has to do the following day.
7 Our garage is in the 322 exchange area; so that's a toll
8 call every day to call Ebensburg.

9 Being able to call the 472 exchange from
10 the 322 exchange would be a sizable savings for my
11 business and family. Thank you very much.

12 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you. Ms. Knight,
13 do you have any questions?

14 MS. KNIGHT: I do.

15 CROSS EXAMINATION

16 BY MS. KNIGHT:

17 Q. Mr. Somogyi --- is that how it's pronounced? I
18 don't want to mispronounce it.

19 A. Yes, ma'am.

20 Q. Now let me understand if I can. You have a
21 residential service that has a 322 exchange; is that
22 correct?

23 A. Yes, ma'am.

24 Q. Do you have some idea of what your average toll
25 bill to Ebensburg is on that account? If you

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1 don't ---.

2 JUDGE CORBETT: If you know of your own
3 knowledge, sir. If you want, you can have your wife
4 testify, too.

5 THE WITNESS: I was asking her if she
6 knew what it was. I don't know.

7 BY MS. KNIGHT:

8 Q. How about for your other 322 number which is your
9 business maintenance garage; is that correct?

10 A. Yes. I wouldn't know what that is without having
11 the bill here. I should have brought the bill here. I
12 didn't.

13 Q. Do you have any idea, is it less than \$10 a month?

14 A. No. It's more than \$10 a month. The house is more
15 and the business maintenance garage is more, too, than
16 \$10.

17 Q. Are you familiar with the optional calling plans
18 that are available for calling from Johnstown to
19 Ebensburg?

20 A. No.

21 Q. And just so I understand, is your comment about the
22 calls you have to take at home that you have
23 customers ---?

24 A. I have customers in the 322 area that call me at
25 home because they don't want to place a long-distance

1 call to Ebensburg; so they'll call my residence which is
2 in the 322 area. Of course, they're exchange is 322,
3 also.

4 Q. And you also have another business address other
5 than the 322?

6 A. Yes, ma'am.

7 Q. Do they call there?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. When you say if you had toll-free calling from the
10 472 exchange --- or from 322 to 472, you'd have a
11 sizable savings, what did you mean by sizable savings?

12 A. Well, my phone bill of calling from the 322
13 exchange from the maintenance shop to Ebensburg every
14 day, that's a toll call every time; plus, it would also
15 help, I think with my business being in Ebensburg, I
16 think a lot more people would call me if it wasn't
17 long-distance.

18 Q. But you didn't quantify --- since we're dealing
19 here with sort of what the burden is, I'm trying to get
20 you to be a little more specific about when you say a
21 sizable savings. That could mean different things to
22 different people?

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. Do you have any way of quantifying that?

25 A. I would say it would save on the phone bill; plus,

1 it would also help me in my business because I would be
2 having more people call me.

3 Q. But you don't have a number on the sizable savings?
4 I'm just trying to get you to try to quantify that, but
5 you can't; is that correct?

6 A. No. I don't have a number.

7 Q. So if you were able to buy a block of time, for
8 example, a block of time for a flat fee, you don't know
9 where your break even point would be and what it would
10 be worth to you to be able to --- say for example,
11 purchase an hour of time at a flat fee for calling from
12 Johnstown to Ebensburg?

13 A. I wouldn't have any idea.

14 Q. Do you think a plan of that nature, being able to
15 buy a block of time for a fixed fee, would be helpful to
16 you?

17 A. It's a possibility; yeah.

18 MS. KNIGHT: I have no further questions.

19 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you, Mr. Somogyi.

20 (Witness excused.)

21 JUDGE CORBETT: Reverend Lynn Sanner? Is
22 she here or did she step out? Okay. I know there's a
23 crowd outside in the hall.

24 Whereupon,

25 LYNN SANNER

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1 having been previously sworn, testified as follows:

2 JUDGE CORBETT: Could you begin by giving
3 us your full name, please; and spell your last name for
4 the Court Reporter.

5 MS. SANNER: Pastor Lynn Sanner,
6 S-A-N-N-E-R.

7 JUDGE CORBETT: And what is your address,
8 please?

9 MS. SANNER: 3312 William Penn Avenue,
10 Johnstown 15909.

11 JUDGE CORBETT: Your telephone number?

12 MS. SANNER: 322-3961.

13 JUDGE CORBETT: Do you also have a
14 statement?

15 MS. SANNER: Yes.

16 JUDGE CORBETT: You may proceed.

17 DIRECT TESTIMONY

18 MS. SANNER: I'd like to speak on behalf
19 of myself being a resident, but also being pastor of a
20 church in a 322 exchange. In my residence, there's two
21 adults and one child who is nine years old. My husband
22 is employed in Ebensburg D&F Decker Jewelry Store.
23 Relative to our congregation, we worship about 180
24 members. We, through personal and the church, call
25 Ebensburg daily. We could make five to ten calls a day

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1 at each place. Occasionally, my husband will call
2 Ebensburg relative to his work. Occasionally, my
3 daughter will call Ebensburg. And as she's only nine,
4 this will increase because when she becomes a teenager,
5 you know how that goes.

6 When I call, I'm calling members of my
7 congregation because there's a majority of our folk who
8 come from the Ebensburg area. Also again, as we
9 gravitate toward that area, I'm in a relationship with
10 the other clergy and other congregations in the
11 Ebensburg Ministerium. That's how we consider ourselves
12 in that region. Also, we have members who reside at the
13 Laurel Crest Nursing Home. And again, I'm involved with
14 contacting local agencies such as the Area Agency on
15 Aging which again is in Ebensburg.

16 I've needed to call into the Ebensburg
17 area for the use of motels to arrange meeting sites for
18 our congregation or other activities and room rental for
19 visiting family. We often call the Courthouse with
20 questions about legal documents such as passports,
21 marriage certificates. Again, our daughter is in the
22 Central Cambria School District.

23 We relate with businesses through our own
24 personal use and the congregation; businesses such as
25 the Long Barn, AgWay, Dry Cleaner, Shoe Repair. Again,

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1 all that's in Ebensburg. We call restaurants to make
2 reservations. Our CPA is in Ebensburg. Our dog's
3 Veterinarian is in Ebensburg. Our healthcare facilities
4 are in Ebensburg. Again, my husband's place of
5 employment is in Ebensburg.

6 My residence phone bills can range from
7 \$25 to \$35. The church phone bills can range from \$30
8 to \$40 because of the long-distance charge in calling
9 Ebensburg. Certainly, any money we could save at the
10 church would be used in other important ways. To spend
11 money on phone calls takes away from other types of
12 outreach ministries we can do. Any money saved in our
13 personal budget would be greatly appreciated.

14 Sometimes I will avoid making calls to
15 Ebensburg and try to use my cell phone in place of that.
16 And I think this toll calling to Ebensburg affects our
17 congregation; and we feel that that money spent on phone
18 calling could be more effectively used. Our
19 congregation, if we spent less on utilities, we could
20 more effectively, we think, outreach into the
21 community.

22 Already we provide a very big open door
23 in our congregation. We have three different scouting
24 programs. We have an open door to a local chapter of
25 TOPS. We have an open door to a local little league

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1 baseball organization that meets monthly. The scouts
2 meet monthly for their planning meetings. We do not
3 charge for their facility, but those folks have access
4 to our phone. For safety and security reasons, they
5 need to have access to local calling. So the members of
6 these groups use the phone, and we don't want to deny
7 them that, but then we also end up paying for; so that's
8 my testimony.

9 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you. You mentioned
10 local chapter of TOPS. I'm not quite sure I understand
11 what --- what is TOPS? What does that stand for?

12 MS. SANNER: Take Off Pounds Sensibly.

13 JUDGE CORBETT: That's probably why I
14 don't know what that is.

15 MS. SANNER: And I don't ever tell who
16 goes.

17 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Now I know. Very
18 good. Thank you very much. Ms. Knight?

19 MS. KNIGHT: Yes; thank you.

20 CROSS EXAMINATION

21 BY MS. KNIGHT:

22 Q. Good evening. Since you have a child, let me ask
23 you about the School District. Your child, I assume
24 ther., goes to an elementary school?

25 A. Right.

1 Q. Is the elementary school within the your local
2 calling area?

3 A. Right.

4 Q. Is the Junior High within the local calling area?

5 A. No.

6 Q. What is your local elementary school name?

7 A. Jackson Elementary. If I could make one comment,
8 I'm involved in a tutoring program for which I needed to
9 be trained, and that all happens in Ebensburg. So phone
10 calls about that, setting up arrangements for training,
11 all that happens in Ebensburg. Nothing happens at our
12 local elementary.

13 Q. So let me ask --- let me find out. You say your
14 local phone ranges from \$25 to \$35. Is that the toll
15 portion or is that your total bill?

16 A. That would be my total bill.

17 Q. And what do you think you pay for toll charges to
18 Ebensburg?

19 A. That will vary because at this point I've been very
20 frustrated having to pay that. I'll sometimes use my
21 cell phone. And so I think to understand that --- this
22 has put us in a very difficult situation. I would use
23 my own residential phone much more and my phone bill
24 would be even higher.

25 Q. I understand, but give me an idea before you got

1 your cell phone for example, what was your average
2 calling charge to Ebensburg?

3 A. I would say it's costing me at least \$15 a month;
4 \$15 to call --- to make these calls I need to make to be
5 in contact with members, to be in contact with my
6 colleagues.

7 Q. And that's just on your home phone?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. If that's \$15 a month, that means you're only
10 charged \$10 for the entire balance of your phone bill?

11 A. Whatever it costs just to have the phone ---.

12 Q. Correct.

13 A. And put some on it. So it can range up to \$35.
14 There's times when it goes up even higher, so ---.

15 Q. And how much on your church telephone? Did you
16 give us your church telephone number?

17 A. Yes, up at the top.

18 Q. And how much out of the --- I assume likewise the
19 \$30 to \$40 is your total monthly fee?

20 A. Uh-huh. And most of that is calling to Ebensburg.
21 So if you backed out your fee of what it costs to have
22 the phone ---.

23 Q. So again \$10 to \$15?

24 A. To have the phone. And then ---.

25 Q. I believe your average, and I don't want to

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1 testify, but I believe your calling rate if you have
2 unlimited calling, that's \$21?

3 A. For the church?

4 Q. For the church probably is higher.

5 A. That I can't answer.

6 Q. You don't know what your telephone charges, are
7 just your monthly charges?

8 A. Well, you just told me what it was.

9 Q. I'm just asking --- you said you can't answer.
10 Would you agree or disagree?

11 A. I cannot agree. I don't know.

12 Q. Do you make calls to Johnstown?

13 A. Occasionally. There's hospitals in Johnstown that
14 I call, sure.

15 Q. I was going to say your parishioners --- I don't
16 know is you call them parishioners, your --- they go to
17 the hospital in Johnstown?

18 JUDGE CORBETT: I'm sorry. You'll have
19 to say yes or no for the Court Reporter.

20 THE WITNESS: Yes. We call the
21 hospitals.

22 BY MS. KNIGHT:

23 Q. You don't do any other business in Johnstown?

24 A. Relative to ---?

25 Q. Day-to-day business just like you identified

1 business you do in Ebensburg?

2 A. Not particularly.

3 Q. You don't shop in Johnstown?

4 A. No, not downtown.

5 Q. You don't go to any doctors in Johnstown?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Have you made any effort to limit the use of the
8 phone to the groups that come in and use the church,
9 asking them to pay or asking them to restrict usage to
10 emergencies?

11 A. We ask them certainly to be good stewards, but we
12 cannot take the phone out.

13 Q. So you ask them to restrict usage?

14 A. We ask them to be good stewards, but we cannot take
15 out the phone for safety and security reasons.

16 Q. I didn't ask you if you were going to disconnect
17 the phone or ask them not to use it. I only asked
18 whether you ask them to restrict their usage?

19 A. And I respond by saying we ask them to be good
20 stewards.

21 Q. And does that mean you restrict their usage? Do
22 you see a lot of telephone numbers that you don't
23 recognize on your phone bill at the church that you
24 don't recognize as you having made?

25 A. We recognize that at times some of those groups

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1 need to be able to make phone calls; and so we ask them
2 to be good stewards; that they would not be making
3 personal calls just because that phone is there for
4 them. If they need a ride home or if it's an emergency
5 situation, that's why that phone is there for them to
6 have access to ---.

7 MS. KNIGHT: Your Honor, can you ask her
8 to answer my question?

9 JUDGE CORBETT: Well, I don't see it as a
10 material thing. We'll move on here.

11 MS. KNIGHT: I have no further questions.

12 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Thank you.

13 (Witness excused.)

14 JUDGE CORBETT: Linda Lesko?

15 Whereupon,

16 LINDA LESKO

17 having been previously sworn, testified as follows:

18 DIRECT TESTIMONY

19 MS. LESKO: My name is Linda Lesko,
20 L-E-S-K-O. I live at 460 Leidy Lane; and that's
21 Johnstown. It's in Vinco.

22 JUDGE CORBETT: What is your occupation,
23 ma'am?

24 MS. LESKO: I am a retired
25 schoolteacher.

1 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Very good.

2 MS. LESKO: A lot has been said about our
3 school. We're not allowed to repeat it so I won't; but
4 I think as far as having to call the school, I think we
5 haven't pointed out that the School District does
6 request, cannot make parents, but we request that any
7 time a child is absent or going to be taken out before
8 dismissal, that there be a call so we know Johnnie or
9 Suzy is going where they belong safely. And also, in
10 case of homework. The absences are to be done first
11 thing in the morning. And then homework is usually done
12 possibly at noontime or so forth giving the classroom
13 teacher time to know what the assignments will be for
14 the next day.

15 Vinco's elementary school is Jackson
16 Elementary. It is in Vinco. It has a 749 number which
17 is toll-free. What affects those students is once they
18 leave Fifth Grade. From Fifth Grade on, their school
19 activity is Ebensburg. By school activity, I mean not
20 only the 8:00 to 3:00 time. They're involved in
21 numerous activities, and I do have a list which I can
22 present to you; sports, cheerleading, football. This is
23 also for elementary. We have Midget Football, Midget
24 Cheerleaders for nine, ten year-old girls; so their
25 activity is simply in Ebensburg.

1 For example. I've lived here all my
2 life. When I knew the meeting was at the Sleep Inn, I
3 knew about where it was but I could not have directed
4 someone directly to it. I worked in Ebensburg for
5 almost 40 years. I'm more familiar with that.

6 Also, I think one of the things we have
7 discussed was the medical facilities that are available
8 to us in Ebensburg. The one that we haven't --- I know
9 that my father was ill for many years and we did have a
10 Johnstown doctor because it was accessible for him; but
11 each time that he had Home Nursing, Home Rehab, the
12 offices were in Ebensburg. My father was gravely ill
13 for 16 years. We just had to call very often for
14 nursing to come, maybe 12:00 at night or what have you.
15 I do think Ebensburg is our center of activity.

16 I don't know what else to say that most
17 of these people haven't said. I tried to make notes as
18 I was going along, but I was really listening and not
19 doing well with note taking. One of the things I have
20 that you might want to see --- give me a minute please.

21 JUDGE CORBETT: Sure. Take your time.

22 MS. LESKO: While doing the petitions and
23 talking to residents and so forth, I took many of their
24 ideas of why they call Ebensburg. I was able to come up
25 with 47 reasons, very good reasons; medical reasons,

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1 business reasons. Our State Police number is 471 which
2 is an Ebensburg number. Our 472 number is for Crime
3 Stoppers is an Ebensburg number. I think I was also
4 told that nonemergency, which would be I guess after
5 hours for our local police, is also a 472 number. I
6 know. I've had to use that number one time. We have a
7 supervisor in Jackson who is running. Should he be
8 successful, his number is 472. So we're just very 472
9 oriented.

10 I must tell you that I feel our school
11 administrators --- and I don't see Mr. DeRubis here. He
12 may have a meeting. He was really, really trying to
13 come. When I went and approached our school
14 administrators about requesting help for our students to
15 be able to call 472, they were all very supportive. All
16 ten of them signed.

17 I have a paper here which I can give you
18 that shows the population of Vinco which is just short
19 of 5,000; 4,925, something very similar to that.

20 JUDGE CORBETT: I'm sorry, ma'am. Where
21 did you get that information?

22 MS. LESKO: This is from our Township
23 Manager.

24 JUDGE CORBETT: Do you have an extra copy
25 for Ms. Knight?

1 MS. LESKO: Yes, I do. And we have 2000
2 households in our 322 calling area for Vinco. And this
3 would be the most recent one. I have --- many of the
4 people here have already mentioned the school and I
5 started, but I have a list of activities that students
6 do after school time that are necessary for them.

7 Also, I think we need to note that when
8 our students become 16, work age, most employment is in
9 Ebensburg for them. It's closer for them. Open House:
10 We have a student tutoring program which is in the
11 evening both for students and for adults. Our Admiral
12 Perry Vo-Tech is in Ebensburg. It has adult classes.
13 Many of them are fun classes; flower arranging and so
14 forth, but we have nursing --- you know, work type
15 activities. The GED classes are given there. The
16 testing is there; so that we need to call the Vo-Tech
17 many times, also.

18 I know when I worked in Ebensburg, I live
19 on Leidy Lane which is sort of a bad road. My father
20 would call the school and tell me not to use the one
21 road, that type of thing; but there are many reasons
22 that our students do go to Ebensburg. And as I said, it
23 does begin in the elementary. After Fifth Grade, it's
24 all Ebensburg. And my heart goes out to them because I
25 think those are the years where they form their

1 relationships, their friends; and I think they should be
2 allowed to be part of that. And that's one of the
3 reasons that I'd like to see this happen if at all
4 possible.

5 I think that's all I have to say. Thank
6 you.

7 JUDGE CORBETT: All right. And what is
8 your telephone number, ma'am, for the record?

9 MS. LESKO: My number is 322-4588.

10 JUDGE CORBETT: And that's area code
11 814?

12 MS. LESKO: Yes.

13 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Ms. Knight, do you
14 have any questions?

15 MS. KNIGHT: Yes, I do.

16 CROSS EXAMINATION

17 BY MS. KNIGHT:

18 Q. Ms. Lesko, am I correct that you are now retired
19 but you used to work at the High School?

20 A. I worked at the elementary in Ebensburg.

21 Q. Oh, you worked in the elementary school?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And your telephone bill that you have now, what is
24 that on an average month? How much do you ---?

25 A. We're very frugal. I would say probably \$30 to

1 \$35.

2 JUDGE CORBETT: Just a reminder, just let
3 counsel ask the full question and then you can answer;
4 okay?

5 MS. LESKO: I'm sorry.

6 JUDGE CORBETT: That's for the Court
7 Reporter's benefit.

8 MS. LESKO: I'm sorry.

9 JUDGE CORBETT: That's all right. No
10 problem. We know you're anxious and want to give your
11 statement. Everybody that steps up here is nervous. We
12 understand that.

13 BY MS. KNIGHT:

14 Q. Well, let me make sure I'm clear on this. Your
15 toll bill for calls to Ebensburg is \$35 a month?

16 A. Our total.

17 Q. Your total?

18 A. Total. We're very frugal. I do things having ---
19 you know, my friends have me call them once, hang up,
20 they call back. I'm in Ebensburg quite often. I take
21 care of things there. I have a cousin who lives in
22 Ebensburg. I use her phone. I mean, it's just ---
23 that's what -- we were raised to be very careful with
24 money.

25 Q. Pennsylvania Dutch; I understand. So less than \$10

1 a month?

2 A. It wouldn't be anymore than \$10.

3 Q. Do you know whether the high school has any
4 arrangements for --- strike that.

5 You all are talking about Vinco but this is Jackson
6 Township. Can you explain to me what Vinco encompasses,
7 what that means?

8 A. I have a map here; yes. Vinco is a little village,
9 as I said, just short of 5,000 people within; and
10 Jackson Township is our township. Possibly, this is a
11 map that might help you. I've circled Johnstown. Vinco
12 is not on the map. It's very tiny. So it's closest to
13 Mundys Corner; and then Ebensburg is circled, also.

14 JUDGE CORBETT: All right. Very good.
15 We'll have this marked as Complainant's Exhibit No. 1.
16 This appears to be a map of a portion of Cambria
17 County. Do you have a copy for the Court Reporter?

18 MS. LESKO: Yes, I do.

19 JUDGE CORBETT: Very good. We'll have
20 this marked and identified as Complainant's Exhibit 1.

21 (Whereupon, the document was marked as
22 Complainant's Exhibit No. 1 for identification.)

23 BY MS. KNIGHT:

24 Q. Now could you explain to me where the Central ---
25 I'm sorry, the School District, Central Cambria School

1 District. Do you have any idea how that overlays onto
2 this geographic and political map?

3 A. Central Cambria School District is in Ebensburg,
4 Pennsylvania.

5 Q. The school is there. How big is the --- where is
6 the school district?

7 A. Oh, I'm sorry. The school district encompasses
8 Vinco, Ebensburg, Colver, and Revloc, and Cambria
9 Township.

10 Q. For example --- I'm sorry.

11 A. I'm sorry. They're telling me --- I was in
12 Ebensburg all the time. They're telling me Cambria and
13 Jackson Township is what our school district
14 encompasses.

15 Q. So it's all of Jackson Township?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And Cambria Township?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Would that --- would the children in Nanty Glo go
20 to Central Cambria Township School District for example?

21 A. No. That is another school district.

22 Q. But Nanty Glo is in Jackson Township?

23 A. No.

24 JUDGE CORBETT: Wait, wait, wait. Hold
25 it. The Court Reporter can't get that down. We can

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1 only have one person at a time talk; okay? I understand
2 that you'd like to get this corrected. If you want to
3 correct something, you're welcome to testify later.

4 Thank you.

5 BY MS. KNIGHT:

6 Q. Do you know, does the school district extend all
7 the way over to Vintondale for example?

8 A. I think it does; yes.

9 Q. Okay. And that goes all the way to the boundary
10 with Westmoreland --- or with Indiana County?

11 A. Yes. It's a very widespread area.

12 Q. But it mostly goes to the west of Ebensburg as
13 compared to going to the east of Ebensburg?

14 A. Yes, west. Yes; it would be mostly west.

15 Q. Do you know whether the school has made any
16 arrangements to have a toll-free line coming into the
17 school if there's a considerable population that can't
18 call without a toll charge?

19 A. I was there for almost 40 years and I'm not aware
20 of that.

21 Q. Do you know whether the request has ever been made
22 of the school district to have local numbers to serve
23 the population that is not within the local calling
24 area?

25 A. I wouldn't imagine --- you'll have to ask the

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1 Superintendent. I really don't know.

2 Q. Now you gave a list of reasons for calling
3 Ebensburg that you had taken from a survey I gather you
4 did while you were doing the petition; but what are your
5 personal reasons for calling Ebensburg?

6 A. My garage is there, therapy; physical and OT was
7 there. Stores are there; clothing stores. Grocery
8 stores are there. The Bureau of Consumer Protection is
9 there when we had trouble. My father doctored in
10 Pittsburgh, also; so we had different things happen to
11 get that straightened out. That office is there. I
12 have called PennDOT because of someone leaving our home
13 in the winter to check on road conditions 40 miles from
14 home. I'm trying to think of what else I do there. I'm
15 just in Ebensburg all the time; entertainment,
16 restaurants, when you have a family reunion.

17 Q. I'm talking about calls you might make routinely as
18 compared to --- I assume you don't call your grocery
19 store very often?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Which calls do you make routinely?

22 A. Garage, doctor, dentist. I do call Wal-Mart more
23 than I should when I'm checking for things. I do still
24 have to call the school. I'm very thrilled when they
25 ask me to come in and do volunteer programs; so I ---

1 you know, I do that anytime I can for them because I
2 enjoy it.

3 MS. KNIGHT: I have no further questions
4 of this witness, Your Honor.

5 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you. Ms. Lesko, I
6 have one or two more questions for you.

7 On this map that you supplied to us,
8 Complainant's Exhibit 1, you have three areas circled;
9 Johnstown, Ebensburg and another area that includes
10 Mundys Corner and Dearmin. You may have stated the
11 reason for this; but is there a reason why you circled
12 Dearmin and Mundys Corner?

13 MS. LESKO: If I may approach you,
14 please.

15 JUDGE CORBETT: Sure.

16 MS. LESKO: I simply --- the reason
17 that's probably on there --- I have no idea where that
18 is. I've never heard of it --- just because it was easy
19 to see Mundys Corner that way.

20 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Thank you.

21 MS. LESKO: My purpose was Johnstown,
22 Mundys Corner, because Vinco wasn't there; and
23 Ebensburg.

24 MS. KNIGHT: If I can ask a follow-up
25 question. Isn't Vinco down below Mundys Corner? I see

1 Vinco.

2 JUDGE CORBETT: I see Vinco on there.

3 MS. LESKO: Oh, I'm sorry.

4 JUDGE CORBETT: Yes. It's on Route 271?

5 MS. LESKO: Yes.

6 MS. KNIGHT: So it's south of Mundys

7 Corner.

8 MS. LESKO: About three to five miles.

9 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Thank you.

10 Anything further, Ms. Knight, of this witness?

11 MS. KNIGHT: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

12 JUDGE CORBETT: Any objection to the
13 admission of Complainant's Exhibit 1?

14 MS. KNIGHT: No.

15 JUDGE CORBETT: It will be so admitted.

16 (Whereupon, the document marked as
17 Complainant's Exhibit No. 1 was received in evidence.)

18 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you, Ms. Lesko, for
19 coming in. And you will receive also a notification of
20 the hearings when they are in Pittsburgh.

21 MS. LESKO: Your Honor, this is a letter
22 from one of our School Board members who could not
23 attend tonight. And he wanted to still be represented.

24 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. You'll have to
25 show this letter to Ms. Knight first; all right?

1 MS. LESKO: Okay. And I don't know, but
2 someone just --- as I was coming in and it was getting
3 crowded, someone handed me in this envelope and I used
4 the envelope to make notes. This is another similar
5 type letter, Your Honor.

6 MS. KNIGHT: Your Honor, this is actually
7 from a dentist. This isn't from a School Board member.

8 MS. LESKO: Dr. Leckey is an Optometrist
9 and he is a School Board member.

10 MS. KNIGHT: But the letter's not about
11 the school.

12 MS. LESKO: No. He's stating why he
13 could not come tonight. It's verification that he has
14 office hours this evening but did want to come here and
15 just could not. His office hours are this evening.

16 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. I think we can put
17 that on the record without allowing the letter in. Ms.
18 Lesko, I think what you can do is thank the Doctor for
19 giving us the letter. We appreciate the fact that he
20 wanted to be here, but I think that would service for
21 the record. We appreciate that. Thank you very much.
22 Thank you.

23 MS. KNIGHT: Thank you.

24 JUDGE CORBETT: Anything else then, Ms.
25 Lesko?

1 MS. LESKO: I don't think so. Thank you.

2 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you very much.

3 (Witness excused.)

4 JUDGE CORBETT: David Cobaugh?

5 Whereupon,

6 DAVID COBAUGH

7 having been previously sworn, testified as follows:

8 JUDGE CORBETT: Did I pronounce your name
9 correctly, sir?

10 MR. COBAUGH: Yes, sir.

11 JUDGE CORBETT: Would you begin by giving
12 us your full name, sir, and spell your last name for the
13 Court Reporter, please.

14 MR. COBAUGH: Yes. David Cobaugh,
15 C-O-B-A-U-G-H.

16 JUDGE CORBETT: And your address, sir?

17 MR. COBAUGH: 724 Kepple; that's
18 K-E-P-P L-E; Johnstown, Pennsylvania. And 15909 is the
19 zip.

20 JUDGE CORBETT: And your telephone
21 number?

22 MR. COBAUGH: 322-4512.

23 JUDGE CORBETT: And your occupation or
24 trade and place of business?

25 MR. COBAUGH: My occupation, I'm a

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1 Physics and Chemistry Teacher at Conemaugh Valley High
2 School.

3 JUDGE CORBETT: Very good, sir. Would
4 you give us your statement, please.

5 DIRECT TESTIMONY

6 MR. COBAUGH: In addition to teaching at
7 the local high school, I'm part of the adjunct faculty
8 at Saint Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania.
9 Loretto, Pennsylvania is also in the 472 area code that
10 we're addressing tonight. And a number of my students
11 in class reside in the area and it's important that we
12 make several calls into that 472 area; for planning
13 purposes that we're working with, with the staff. And
14 also, we have what we call a phone chain for fowl
15 weather where we have to contact the students. And we
16 take it pretty much on ourselves as a faculty to make
17 sure that all students get called. So rather than
18 trusting a student to call another student to activate
19 the phone chain, it's my responsibility, I think as a
20 staff member, to make sure that everybody gets notified
21 in case we have a cancellation of classes in the
22 interest of safety for the students in fowl weather, or
23 for illness or whatever else. So I think that area
24 hasn't been touched on tonight, but Saint Francis
25 University is also in a small town, Loretto, which is

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1 about six or seven miles north of Ebensburg; but it's
2 also in the exchange that we're addressing tonight.

3 In addition to those duties, I conduct or
4 teach several workshops for the Intermediate Unit 8
5 which is headquartered in Ebensburg. This also involves
6 an extensive amount of planning and preparation and
7 contact with the people in that office and for the
8 classes there. I know that may seem like a personal
9 reason, but as many of our people have addressed
10 tonight, we --- Ebensburg is the center of our lives in
11 a sense; from shopping to doctors, to employment, to all
12 those kinds of things.

13 And I would add a couple of other areas
14 that maybe haven't been touched on tonight. I'm also a
15 member of Pastor Sanner's church, Saint Paul's Lutheran
16 Church at Ebensburg, and my wife is part of the prayer
17 chain. When we have a person, a family ill or having
18 some difficulties of any kind for that matter, we
19 establish a prayer chain which we think is a very, very
20 important form of ministry that we do at our church.
21 And probably half of the members of the prayer chain are
22 located in the 472 area. Now we as a family take that
23 on and that's our responsibility. We would do that
24 whether it cost us X number of dollars or not, but it
25 would certainly be --- we would feel better stewards if

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1 we could use that money towards some other type of
2 ministry rather than an intangible phone call --- you
3 know, paid that bill.

4 So I think from those little standpoints,
5 we would like to see that. And I can relate one other
6 thing. Last Sunday, our I'm Chairman of our Service
7 Committee at our church. And part of our service
8 project is to have an Adopt a Highway Project, which we
9 do, along Route 22 which is one mile east and west of
10 the Murdys Corner interchange. The rules established by
11 PennDOT is that when you're through with your Adopt a
12 Highway Project, you need to contact them and tell them
13 that there's bags located along such and such a road and
14 that they then send out a crew to pick up the bags; and
15 that involves a toll call.

16 Now I know you may think that PennDOT has
17 an 800 number and they do; but if you try to call that
18 800 number and get to the person that's in charge of the
19 Adopt a Highway in Ebensburg, please tell me how you do
20 it because it just doesn't work. Now that may not ---
21 and I'm not criticizing Verizon. That very well may be
22 PennDOT's problem in their network. I think that's all
23 I have to add and I'm very sorry I can't quantify
24 anything. As far as numbers, our personal phone charge
25 is somewhere between \$35 and \$50 per month. I would not

1 attempt to break it down as far as how much involves the
2 Ebensburg exchange because we, of course, have a number
3 of others.

4 I can tell you this. My wife also I
5 guess maybe has a little bit of that Pennsylvania Dutch
6 and is very frugal in that she is always searching for
7 various long-distance providers. Now I know --- but
8 local long-distance is different than Interstate and
9 Intrastate long-distance and I get very bogged down in
10 the terminology of all of it; but she's very
11 conscientious of that. And we do an awful lot to keep
12 our phone bill down, which inconveniences us, but if
13 it's going to save us some dollars, I think we're
14 willing to make that sacrifice.

15 We use e-mail. I'm sort of opposed to
16 cell phones but that's for personal reasons; but we do
17 use e-mail as much as we he can and limit our calls.
18 And one thing I think that a number of us do in this
19 room, and that is when we call our friends or --- and
20 not necessarily for social; but when we call people at
21 church for example to do church work and committee work,
22 we ask them to please call us back and they're very good
23 at that. That's an inconvenience that I don't think we
24 should have to live with because we happen to live close
25 to the cut-off line for --- you know, that has been

1 established. Thank you.

2 JUDGE CORBETT: I have a couple questions
3 for you, Mr. Cobaugh.

4 MR. COBAUGH: Certainly.

5 JUDGE CORBETT: You gave your address as
6 Johnstown.

7 MR. COBAUGH: Yes.

8 JUDGE CORBETT: That's a Post Office
9 address.

10 MR. COBAUGH: Yes.

11 JUDGE CORBETT: So where do you live
12 physically?

13 MR. COBAUGH: Physically, I live in West
14 Jackson Township which is the western edges of Jackson
15 Township. It's just west of Vinco on the Benshoff Hill
16 Road.

17 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Very good. And
18 since I'm not familiar with your school district, I
19 believe you said it was Ccnemaugh?

20 MR. COBAUGH: Yes. Now the school
21 district that I teach in is not the school district that
22 has been addressed here many times tonight. Although I
23 live in the Central Cambria School District, I teach in
24 a district that's slightly closer to Johnstown.

25 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. And Conemaugh

1 School District would be -- the physical location of
2 the buildings would be where?

3 MR. COBAUGH: East Conemaugh is probably
4 on your map. It's just north of there in East Taylor
5 Township, just north of Johnstown.

6 JUDGE CORBETT: All right. Thank you,
7 sir. Ms. Knight?

8 CROSS EXAMINATION

9 BY MS. KNIGHT:

10 Q. Mr. Cobaugh, you seem to be pretty familiar with
11 the geography here. Have you lived in Vinco, or at your
12 current address, for a very long time?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Do you know the area around Vinco, too?

15 A. Very well.

16 Q. Can you explain to me, looking at this map to the
17 casual observer, it's looks as if you're closer to
18 Johnstown than you are to Ebensburg?

19 A. Probably halfway. Probably halfway.

20 Q. On the roads that you'd have to go to, if you'd
21 care to share this, it looks like it's visibly shorter
22 to go to Johnstown.

23 A. As the crow flies, that could be true.

24 Q. So do you know how it is that the --- you know, is
25 it that there are some people who go to Ebensburg but

1 there's other people, who perhaps aren't here tonight,
2 who are having community of interests more in Johnstown?
3 Is this an area where you could go either way?

4 A. Well, Johnstown --- I'm sorry to interrupt. I
5 thought you were through.

6 Q. I am.

7 A. Johnstown has had a terrible time socioeconomically
8 since the Johnstown Flood of 1977. There's very little
9 shopping. Many of the professional people, lawyers,
10 doctors and so on, have moved, as we call, up to the
11 hills; the East Hills Plaza in Richland Township, the
12 Westmont area and especially north to the Ebensburg area
13 because of the proximity to the courthouse and those
14 kind of legal services and additional county and state
15 services that are housed in the County Seat.

16 Very few people that I know, and I think I'm pretty
17 representative, travel to Johnstown. I cannot tell you
18 when I --- other than the Halloween Parade last night, I
19 would think if you took a poll, there would not have
20 been too many people that spend much time in Johnstown
21 recently. I don't know when I parked a car in Johnstown
22 in the last several years.

23 Q. When I was talking about Johnstown, I guess I was
24 talking about the entire area. And it looked to me,
25 just from driving in from Harrisburg, that there was a

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1 fair amount of shopping here and ---?

2 A. In Johnstown proper, no.

3 Q. And how about in the vicinity of Johnstown, like
4 out here in the suburbs?

5 A. All of them are located --- virtually, all of them
6 are now located in the suburbs. I think Johnstown has
7 one major, if it's even a major grocery store, right
8 now; and it's a sad commentary.

9 Q. That's my question. In and around Johnstown, would
10 it be accurate to say there is more shopping, etcetera
11 than in and around Ebensburg? I've been to Ebensburg,
12 too. It seems to me that's there's probably more in
13 Johnstown, but that's just a casual observation.

14 A. Well, I think if you're including Richland in the
15 Johnstown?

16 Q. Right.

17 A. Which is probably a Johnstown address; but it's
18 farther for us to go to Richland than it is --- to come
19 here tonight, it was a little bit farther than it is to
20 go to Ebensburg. And we have a Wal-Mart --- a Super
21 Wal-Mart which they don't have at Richland. And these
22 are convenient stores for people today. It's a very
23 busy enterprising place. The corridor along Route 22 at
24 Ebensburg has been growing by leaps and bounds. There
25 has been a lot of interesting newspaper articles. The

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1 traffic congestion has become a real problem. And it's
2 because of that migration; because of transportation and
3 a number of reasons. So our people tend to migrate
4 there for those same reasons.

5 Q. Thank you.

6 JUDGE CORBETT: One question additional,
7 Mr. Cobaugh. You mentioned the County Seat. And pardon
8 my ignorance, but what is the County Seat for Cambria
9 County?

10 MR. COBAUGH: Ebensburg; and the
11 Courthouse and all those things associated with it are
12 in Ebensburg. Thank you, Your Honor.

13 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you. You're
14 excused, sir.

15 (Witness excused.)

16 JUDGE CORBETT: Sir, you did tell me your
17 name before. I'm sorry. I can't remember.

18 MR. BRITTON: HB.

19 JUDGE CORBETT: HB.

20 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you, sir. It's
21 late. I've been up since 5:00 this morning or 6:00 this
22 morning.

23 Whereupon,

24 HAROLD BRITTON

25 having been previously sworn, testified as follows:

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1 MR. BRITTON: My name is Harold Britton,
2 B-R-I-T-T-O-N. I live at 2743 William Penn Avenue,
3 Johnstown 15909.

4 JUDGE CORBETT: And your telephone
5 number, sir?

6 MR. BRITTON: It's area code
7 (814)322-1854.

8 JUDGE CORBETT: And what is your
9 occupation, sir?

10 MR. BRITTON: I'm retired.

11 JUDGE CORBETT: And before you retired,
12 what did you do?

13 MR. BRITTON: I was a military man. I
14 retired from that, also.

15 JUDGE CORBETT: Very good. You may
16 proceed, sir.

17 DIRECT TESTIMONY

18 MR. BRITTON: Okay. I got some letters
19 from some of my friends. I don't know if they'll accept
20 them or not; that can't be here.

21 JUDGE CORBETT: I'm sorry, sir. I know
22 Ms. Knight is going to object. See, the people --- so
23 that you understand, this is a little bit different than
24 some of the hearings or meetings that you may be
25 familiar with where people accept petitions or letters

1 in support of a certain position on a matter. Usually,
2 that's in a legislative function. This is actually akin
3 to a court of law. Instead of being in a courtroom,
4 we're in a hearing room for the Pennsylvania Public
5 Utility Commission; and this is a legal proceeding.

6 And it's a long-winded way for me to say
7 that the people who appear and testify in a case like
8 this must be present and subject to Cross-Examination.
9 So letters and petitions, while they may help in other
10 forums, I'm sorry. They cannot help in this situation.
11 People have to be here. And there's been a sizable
12 turnout here tonight. And everyone who has appeared
13 here tonight is to be congratulated because I understand
14 it has been a journey to get here. And I certainly
15 appreciate that, and I think everyone associated with
16 this case appreciates that; but if you'd like to
17 testify, sir, on your own behalf, we'll be glad to hear
18 what you have to say.

19 MR. BRITTON: On my own behalf, I lived
20 in Jackson Township for 30 years and I deal a lot with
21 Ebensburg. Mainly, right now, I deal mostly with my
22 grandkids which is in Ebensburg. I do call Ebensburg
23 quite often to my family. And when I do call, I use the
24 telephone hang-up and they call me back because it just
25 saves me money. And I can average maybe \$7, \$8 just on

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1 calling Ebensburg, hanging up and calling me back, and I
2 deal with that. And I do most of my other things which
3 was mostly said here tonight already that I wanted to
4 say about it.

5 JUDGE CORBETT: Well, I appreciate that.
6 You support the statements that have been given
7 previously by other witnesses; is that correct, sir?

8 MR. BRITTON: Yes.

9 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. You mentioned that
10 you live in Jackson Township. Now if I looked at this
11 map that Ms. Lesko provided as Complainant's Exhibit 1,
12 what corporate entity would I be looking at that would
13 be closest to you? Would you be in the Vinco area or
14 Mundys Corner area; or where would you be?

15 MR. BRITTON: I'd be right in the heart
16 of Vinco, right on 271.

17 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Very good, sir.
18 Thank you. Have you completed your statement, sir?

19 MR. BRITTON: Yes, I did.

20 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Ms. Knight, do you
21 have any questions?

22 MS. KNIGHT: One question.

23 CROSS EXAMINATION

24 BY MS. KNIGHT:

25 Q. Do you have any of the optional calling plans that

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1 are available for calling on your personal phone line
2 that are available as discounts for calling from ---?

3 A. The only thing I got is through AT&T which is
4 long-distance that I use for going to Europe and stuff
5 like that; but for in this area, no. I don't have
6 nothing. I got an option, but it still costs me you
7 know, just by making regular phone calls to Ebensburg we
8 call quite often for my grandkids.

9 Q. Do you know what your per minute rate is?

10 A. What do you mean rate?

11 Q. Charge per minute for calls?

12 A. No. I don't know what they charge, but I can say
13 it runs me 15 to 20 cents every time I call them and
14 hang up and tell them to call me, which if I was to talk
15 on the phone with the kids --- you know what I mean,
16 that would probably run about maybe a \$1, \$1.50 at a
17 time. So it would be a substantial amount of money.

18 Q. I understand. Thank you.

19 MS. KNIGHT: I have no further questions.

20 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you, sir. Thank
21 you for coming in.

22 (Witness excused.)

23 JUDGE CORBETT: Lori Curley?

24 Whereupon,

25 LORI CURLEY

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1 having been previously sworn, testified as follows:

2 DIRECT TESTIMONY

3 MS. CURLEY: My name is Lori Curley,
4 C-U-R-L-E-Y. My address is 96 Adams Avenue, Mineral
5 Point, Pennsylvania 15942. We have two residential
6 phone lines; (814)322-4345 and (814)322-1587. That's
7 primarily for our computer.

8 JUDGE CORBETT: What is your occupation,
9 ma'am?

10 MS. CURLEY: I'm self-employed. I'm a
11 Creative Memories Director.

12 JUDGE CORBETT: Creative Memories
13 Director.

14 MS. CURLEY: I teach people how to put
15 together scrapbook albums.

16 JUDGE CORBETT: Very good. Thank you.

17 MS. CURLEY: Everybody else brought up a
18 lot of the points that I wanted to make tonight, too;
19 but I thought maybe I could give a little bit different
20 perspective on it; in that my husband and my three
21 children, who are in Sixth, Eighth and Tenth Grade, all
22 in the Ebensburg Middle School and High School.

23 We just moved here seven years ago. And
24 when we moved here, we had no family. We still have no
25 family except for the five of us, and we have naturally

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1 gravitated to the Ebensburg area. So a lot of the other
2 people here have lived here all their lives, and their
3 families may have come from Ebensburg. Ours did not;
4 but they're not in Johnstown either. And we just
5 naturally have gone that way. So it's just been a real
6 natural thing with the children playing soccer in
7 Ebensburg, football, baseball, basketball and now going
8 to school there, too.

9 I also wanted to mention that we also
10 have people call us back. And now that my kids are in
11 middle school and high school, that happens quite
12 often. And it's 16 cents each time they call and say
13 call me back. And I'm estimating that out of our \$35 to
14 \$40 monthly phone bill, probably \$5 to \$8 is those 16
15 cent calls.

16 JUDGE CORBETT: Does that conclude your
17 statement?

18 MS. CURLEY: Yes, it does.

19 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Ms. Knight, any
20 questions?

21 CROSS EXAMINATION

22 BY MS. KNIGHT:

23 Q. Can you locate Mineral Point on this map for us?

24 A. Mineral Point encompasses a very, very wide area.

25 It's a teeny-tiny little town, but I live in Jackson

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1 Township. And it probably would be several miles from
2 Mineral Point, but I'm actually between Mundys Corner
3 and Vinco.

4 Q. Mineral Point's the Post Office; right?

5 A. Mineral Point's the Post Office; yes. It's a very
6 rural area. I would be ---.

7 Q. In Fairview?

8 A. No. I would be east of 271.

9 Q. Where it looks like there's nothing; okay.

10 So for the most part, you have your children make
11 that initial call and get the call back?

12 A. Yes.

13 MS. KNIGHT: I have no other questions
14 for this witness.

15 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you, Ms. Curley,
16 for coming in.

17 (Witness excused.)

18 JUDGE CORBETT: Vincent Brisini?

19 Whereupon,

20 VINCENT BRISINI

21 having been previously sworn, testified as follows:

22 JUDGE CORBETT: You're handing me a
23 statement and a copy for the Court Reporter.

24 Would you begin, sir, by giving us your
25 full name and spell your last name for the Court

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1 Reporter.

2 MR. BRISINI: Vincent Brisini,

3 B-R-I-S-I-N-I.

4 JUDGE CORBETT: And your address?

5 MR. BRISINI: My address is 594 Leidy
6 Lane, Johnstown Pennsylvania 15909; and my telephone
7 number is 322-3305. I work for Reliant Energy as
8 Environmental Manager at 1001 Broad Street, Johnstown,
9 PA.

10 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay.

11 DIRECT TESTIMONY

12 MR. BRISINI: I'd like to go through the
13 statement and then offer some information on how
14 peculiar our area is located. Mrs. Curley that was just
15 up here whose address is Mineral Point, she lives about
16 eight houses away from me on a road. If you go up one
17 road, it's Johnstown. If you go out --- our address ---
18 Mineral Point starts immediately above our house. And
19 the Mineral Point address is actually somewhat closer to
20 Ebensburg than a Johnstown address; but Mineral Point is
21 located south of Vinco off of Route 271; so it's very
22 confusing. The address, as far as the Post Office, does
23 not necessarily indicate where you live.

24 As I said, my name is Vincent Brisini,
25 and I live on Leidy Lane. Interestingly, where I live

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1 is only eight miles from Ebensburg and ten miles from
2 Johnstown. And I'm here in support of the proposal to
3 provide toll-free calling from the 322 exchange in the
4 Vinco area to the 471 and 472 exchanges in the Ebensburg
5 area.

6 Most importantly, as everyone has
7 indicated, the Vinco area is more affiliated with the
8 Ebensburg community than with the Johnstown community.
9 This is due to the Vinco area being part of the Central
10 Cambria School District as well as the geographic
11 proximity of Ebensburg for the most convenient shopping,
12 medical attention and other day-to-day activities.

13 Because of my children attending both the
14 Central Cambria Middle School and High School in
15 Ebensburg, their friends and school activities are
16 focused in the Ebensburg area. Consequently, with calls
17 from our home to Ebensburg being long-distance, we've
18 had to institute a policy that when they call their
19 friends in Ebensburg, after their hellos, they hang up
20 and have their friends call them back. Since the call
21 from Ebensburg to Vinco is toll-free, our cost is
22 minimized.

23 This plan works for calls with our
24 children's friends and our friends and family, but it
25 doesn't work for calls to our family physicians and our

1 primary care physicians, our Veterinarians and the other
2 businesses we patronize in Ebensburg. Simply stated, it
3 was previously recognized that toll-free service should
4 be provided from Ebensburg to the Vinco area. That made
5 good. Conversely, providing that same toll-free service
6 from Vinco to Ebensburg also makes good sense.
7 Therefore, I strongly urge the Public Utility Commission
8 to require Verizon to provide that toll-free service.

9 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay, sir. Thank you.
10 Ms. Knight?

11 MS. KNIGHT: Your Honor, I have no
12 questions of this witness.

13 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Thank you very
14 much, sir. You are excused.

15 (Witness excused.)

16 JUDGE CORBETT: Karen Nagy?

17 Whereupon,

18 KAREN NAGY
19 having been previously sworn, testified as follows:

20 JUDGE CORBETT: Ms. Nagy, were you
21 previously sworn?

22 MS. NAGY: I was standing outside the
23 door.

24 JUDGE CORBETT: Did you take the oath?

25 MS. NAGY: Yes.

1 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Very good. Would
2 you begin please by giving us your full name?

3 DIRECT TESTIMONY

4 MS. NAGY: Karen Nagy.

5 JUDGE CORBETT: And how do you spell your
6 last name, please?

7 MS. NAGY: N-A-G-Y.

8 JUDGE CORBETT: And where do you live?

9 MS. NAGY: 246 Adams Avenue, Mineral
10 Point 15942.

11 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Try to keep your
12 voice up if you can so the Court Reporter can hear you;
13 okay? I know you're nervous, but what you have to say
14 is important though; okay?

15 And your telephone number?

16 MS. NAGY: 322-1735.

17 JUDGE CORBETT: And that's area code
18 814?

19 MS. NAGY: Right.

20 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. And what is your
21 occupation?

22 MS. NAGY: I'm a truck driver. I haul
23 mail, US Mail.

24 JUDGE CORBETT: All right. And could you
25 give us your statement, please?

1 MS. NAGY: Basically, everything I had to
2 say has been pretty well covered here tonight. The only
3 other thing that like with the --- some of the
4 pharmacies are in Ebensburg that we call to have
5 prescriptions filled through them, and dentists, and
6 doctors and just about everything that is pretty much in
7 Ebensburg.

8 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Does that conclude
9 your statement, ma'am?

10 MS. NAGY: Yes.

11 JUDGE CORBETT: Ms. Knight, any
12 questions?

13 MS. KNIGHT: None.

14 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you very much,
15 ma'am, for coming in.

16 (Witness excused.)

17 JUDGE CORBETT: Joe Baxter?

18 Whereupon,

19 JOE BAXTER

20 having been previously sworn, testified as follows:

21 JUDGE CORBETT: Please state your full
22 name and address.

23 MR. BAXTER: Joe Baxter, 116 Marhefka
24 Drive, Johnstown PA. What else did you need?

25 JUDGE CORBETT: And did you take the oath

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1 or affirmation before, sir?

2 MR. BAXTER: Yes, sir, I did; out the
3 door there.

4 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Very good. And
5 what is your occupation?

6 MR. BAXTER: I'm a construction laborer
7 with 910 Local.

8 JUDGE CORBETT: I'm sorry; with what?

9 MR. BAXTER: A Construction Laborer with
10 the 910 Local.

11 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay; fine. And would
12 you like to give us your statement?

13 DIRECT TESTIMONY

14 MR. BAXTER: Short and sweet here. We're
15 a family of four, my wife and I. I have an 18 year-old
16 daughter and a 14 year-old daughter. We're affiliated
17 with a lot of the organizations with the youth as far as
18 my children. Coming home today, I started thinking
19 about what I do call. And I started reflecting on my
20 doctor is in Ebensburg. My Veterinarian for my animals
21 is in Ebensburg. My children go to school in Ebensburg.

22 My children's friends are in Ebensburg. My wife works
23 in Ebensburg. Some of the --- I'd say 75 percent of the
24 businesses that I deal with are in Ebensburg.

25 I live approximately about four miles

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1 away from where 322 and 472 have the boundaries. I live
2 approximately seven miles away from the town of
3 Ebensburg from where I live at. It takes me
4 approximately five minutes to get there on the highway,
5 maybe seven minutes. I come home tonight and I asked my
6 wife to get our phone bills out just to see how much
7 phone calls we do make to Ebensburg. I got from April
8 until now the phone calls; and I have quite a few of
9 them. Basically, they're one-minute calls because I
10 have my children call their friends, say hey, we're
11 calling long-distance, call me back.

12 Also, I call some people that I have to
13 deal with on softball which is about 350 kids in the
14 organization. I have to call up approximately 17 teams.
15 Some are in Ebensburg. Some are other areas; but I have
16 conversations going on 10, 15, 20 minutes in a clip on
17 this organization. And I started thinking well, how
18 many numbers do I dial to get a discounted rate which is
19 four and a half cents to a card. I dial 33 numbers to
20 make a long-distance call to save myself money. My
21 long-distance carrier is AT&T. Verizon is my local
22 carrier.

23 I feel where I'm located at, in my area,
24 to be a local call for me to Ebensburg, like Ebensburg
25 can call me locally, would be a most convenience in my

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1 book. And I am willing to pay an extra \$2 a month if I
2 had to, to have this convenience. My children use the
3 Internet as much as they can to conversate with their
4 friends. My oldest one is a Senior. A lot of her
5 friends are doing some high school projects or some
6 schoolwork that they have to collaborate on. She calls
7 them, they call her back; or she travels.

8 In my opinion, in this day and age --- I
9 mean, we're so close; 322 area is a heck of a lot closer
10 to the Ebensburg area than it is to the Richland and
11 Johnstown area. My address is Johnstown. It used to be
12 a Conemaugh Post Office; now it's a Johnstown Post
13 Office. I actually live probably approximately six
14 miles from the Nanty Glo Post Office. I have neighbors
15 no less than a mile away from me have that have a
16 Mineral Point Post Office.

17 So it's kind of tough on your boundaries;
18 but when you look at where we shop at, where we do our
19 business, where our children go to school, it's
20 basically Ebensburg area. And in my opinion, I'd like
21 to see a favoring come our way to have this exchange
22 made a local call to us like Ebensburg has a local call
23 to call us. That's it.

24 JUDGE CORBETT: What is your telephone
25 number, sir?

1 MR. BAXTER: My telephone number is
2 322-3291.

3 JUDGE CORBETT: And that's an 814 area
4 code?

5 MR. BAXTER: Yes, it is, sir.

6 JUDGE CORBETT: And you mentioned your
7 wife works in Ebensburg. What does she do?

8 MR. BAXTER: She's an Aide at the
9 Ebensburg Center.

10 JUDGE CORBETT: And do you know what your
11 average monthly telephone bills are?

12 MR. BAXTER: Well, I must say AT&T gave
13 me a problem, so they gave me some free phone calling to
14 adjudicate the mischarge they had on me on the
15 long-distance calling.

16 My phone bill, if I can read this right. My
17 wife usually does this; is anywhere from \$35.82 to
18 \$47.65.

19 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay.

20 MR. BAXTER: Right now on my plans, I can
21 show you my long-distance phone calls are a minute, to
22 two minutes, to four minutes. I'm getting free service
23 on my AT&T because AT&T did make a mistake on my bill.
24 And to repay me for that mistake, they couldn't refund
25 me cash. They gave me free long-distance; but I can

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1 definitely come back and show you previous years because
2 I had my wife save over the years our telephone bills.
3 And this is not unusual to have this many long-distance
4 phone calls. I have cut my phone calls down. I got the
5 Internet in. I purchased calling cards; but then again,
6 I got to dial 33 numbers to get to a party.

7 JUDGE CORBETT: How much a month do you
8 spend on calling cards?

9 MR. BAXTER: Calling cards, I'd have to
10 say roughly anywhere from \$10 to \$15.

11 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Ms. Knight?

12 MS. KNIGHT: Thank you, Your Honor.

13 CROSS EXAMINATION

14 BY MS. KNIGHT:

15 Q. You were talking about your bills there, but I'm
16 sorry. I didn't quite understand. When you were giving
17 that number, was that your total bill?

18 A. That's total bill; yes, ma'am. It also includes my
19 local, however you want to say, your average phone usage
20 which we have. It's a private line which is 322. We
21 have a private line. That's how it happens. On
22 there --- these bills are confusing. Please bear with
23 me.

24 Q. Let me just back up. Is Verizon North your
25 telephone provider?

1 A. Verizon is my telephone provider and my local.

2 Q. And your local toll is also Verizon?

3 A. Also Verizon. I think AT&T is my long-distance
4 carrier. The reason we stuck with AT&T was because all
5 the slamming went down. We kind of said, hey, we don't
6 want to play the game. Lock us into one people; and
7 that was AT&T because we had them for years.

8 Q. I guess my question is, who makes your phone calls
9 from your home? What carrier carries your telephone
10 call from ---?

11 A. IL's AT&T.

12 JUDGE CORBETT: Let her --- maybe we'll
13 get this cleared up if we can get a complete question
14 and then you can respond.

15 THE WITNESS: Sure.

16 BY MS. KNIGHT:

17 Q. Are you saying that AT&T carries your traffic from
18 your home to Ebensburg; you are charged by AT&T?

19 A. On my telephone bill, the communication services
20 for billing for long-distance is AT&T the way I
21 understand it.

22 Q. So you have no charges for calls from your home to
23 Ebensburg billed by Verizon North? They may be on the
24 Verizon North bill, but they are not carried by Verizon
25 North?

1 A. As far as I understand; right.

2 Q. Okay. So that's why it's relevant that you have a
3 credit coming and you're not being charged right now is
4 because normally your calls would be carried by AT&T and
5 would show up as part of your AT&T bill?

6 A. Right.

7 Q. So that 16 cents is the rate you were being charged
8 by AT&T, not Verizon?

9 A. Twelve (12).

10 Q. Twelve (12) cents per minute?

11 A. Twelve (12) cents per minute is what my bill shows.

12 Q. But that's not a Verizon North charge, that's an
13 AT&T long-distance charge?

14 A. That's an AT&T long-distance charge; yes.

15 Q. Okay. So you don't know what a comparable rate at
16 this point from Verizon North is because you've elected
17 not to switch carriers?

18 A. Well, correct; yes. Wait. Excuse me. I think we
19 did lock into Verizon North and I don't think there was
20 much of a difference. The thing is we were locked in.
21 We stayed in because we didn't want to do the jumping
22 around. I don't think there was much of a better offer
23 by Verizon North.

24 Q. That's okay. I was just inquiring.

25 MS. KNIGHT: I have no further

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1 questions.

2 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you very much,
3 sir.

4 MR. BAXTER: Thank you.

5 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you for coming in.
6 (Witness excused.)

7 JUDGE CORBETT: I had trouble with this
8 name the last name, and I apologize because my memory is
9 not very long this evening. Patty --- it begins with an
10 A-L? Patty Allbaugh. Is Patty Allbaugh here?
11 Whereupon,

12 PATRICIA ALLBAUGH
13 having been previously sworn, testified as follows:

14 JUDGE CORBETT: Did you take the oath
15 before?

16 MS. ALLBAUGH: Yes, sir; in the hallway,
17 but I did.

18 JUDGE CORBETT: Very good. Would you
19 begin by giving us your full name and spell your last
20 name for the Court Reporter, please.

21 MS. ALLBAUGH: Yes. My name is Patricia
22 Allbaugh, A-I-L-B-A-U-G-H.

23 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. And what is your
24 address?

25 MS. ALLBAUGH: It's 2280 Benshoff,

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1 B-E-N-S-H-O-F-F, Hill Road, Johnstown 15909.

2 JUDGE CORBETT: And your telephone
3 number?

4 MS. ALLBAUGH: (814)322-3493.

5 JUDGE CORBETT: And what is your
6 occupation?

7 MS. ALLBAUGH: I'm a Resistered Nurse.

8 JUDGE CORBETT: With any particular
9 hospital or medical practice?

10 MS. ALLBAUGH: I work for Conemaugh
11 Hospital in Johnstown, but I work in Vinco --- at one of
12 their satellite facilities in Vinco.

13 JUDGE CORBETT: All right. And you gave
14 a Johnstown Post Office address. Where do you live
15 physically; what location?

16 MS. ALLBAUGH: I live approximately two
17 and a half miles from Vinco, west of Vinco.

18 JUDGE CORBETT: Mileage is important
19 here. Which way two and a half miles from Vinco?

20 MS. ALLBAUGH: West of Vinco.

21 JUDGE CORBETT: West of Vinco?

22 MS. ALLBAUGH: Right.

23 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. All right. And
24 would you give us your statement, please.

25 DIRECT TESTIMONY

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1 MS. ALLBAUGH: Yes, sir. I came tonight
2 because I had a concern as do many others here about the
3 toll calling to Ebensburg. I'm the Office Manager of a
4 busy family practice. And I checked over our last
5 month's scheduled visits. Of the 638 scheduled visits
6 to our practice, I had 210 patients who came from the
7 Ebensburg area who have Ebensburg phone numbers. Each
8 of those patients are contacted by phone prior to their
9 appointments and afterwards if they don't show up. And
10 prescriptions are called in for them to Ebensburg
11 pharmacies on a regular basis.

12 I checked --- for the month of October, I
13 checked the charges, the telephone charges, for our
14 calls that we made for our Ebensburg patients to their
15 pharmacies and to their homes and whatever calls we had
16 to Ebensburg. And I checked on those today. There were
17 220 calls made to the Ebensburg calling area. There was
18 a total of \$364 in the last month spent on toll calls to
19 the Ebensburg calling area.

20 As we all know, anything like this that
21 we do extra adds to all of our healthcare costs. Also,
22 I serve on the Central Cambria School Board; and
23 we're --- I'm in contact with a lot of the children in
24 the area who go to school in the Central Cambria
25 District and whose phone numbers are --- they're not

1 Ebensburg phone numbers.

2 We frequently make calls from the office
3 to the school where the children go to check on their
4 medicines or their illnesses. There are really a lot of
5 calls involved with that, too; and that reflects in the
6 number that I've given you. And I came tonight to ask
7 that you would consider making this to be not such a
8 burden on the individuals as well as the businesses in
9 the Township. That's all, sir.

10 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Thank you. Wait.
11 Wait. Ms. Knight --- you get the opportunity to be
12 questioned by Ms. Knight.

13 MS. KNIGHT: I only have a couple.

14 CROSS EXAMINATION

15 BY MS. KNIGHT:

16 Q. As I understood it, you'll have to forgive me
17 because this is really loud behind me. You correlated
18 the 220 calls associated with the Ebensburg patients to
19 cost \$364 in a particular month; is that correct?

20 A. Yes, ma'am.

21 Q. Is that --- you checked one month?

22 A. Yeah, one month. I just checked on October which
23 is a fairly good representation of our practice.

24 Q. And how much was your total toll bill?

25 A. I don't know that.

1 Q. So you have no idea what proportion of your toll
2 bill that \$364 is?

3 A. I know I make all the calls from the office. And I
4 don't make --- that's about the only long-distance calls
5 I make.

6 Q. I think that's all. Thank you.

7 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you, Ms. Allbaugh.

8 MS. ALLBAUGH: Thank you, sir.

9 (Witness excused.)

10 JUDGE CORBETT: Karen Stickler?

11 Whereupon,

12 KAREN STICKLER

13 having been previously sworn, testified as follows:

14 JUDGE CORBETT: Did I pronounce your name
15 correctly?

16 MS. STICKLER: No. It's Stickler,
17 S-T-I-C-K-L-E-R.

18 JUDGE CORBETT: Stickler; okay. Thank
19 you for correcting that.

20 MS. STICKLER: Everybody does that.

21 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. And you previously
22 were placed under oath?

23 MS. STICKLER: Yes.

24 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Very good. My
25 address is 32 Harmony Drive, Johnstown 15909. My

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1 telephone number is 322-4506.

2 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. And would you
3 spell your last name for the Court Reporter?

4 MS. STICKLER: S-T-I-C-K-L-E-R.

5 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Very good. You
6 have a statement?

7 MS. STICKLER: Yes.

8 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Do you have an
9 additional copy for counsel and for the Court Reporter?

10 DIRECT TESTIMONY

11 MS. STICKLER: Yes; but I'm not going to
12 need the whole thing because I'm just in support of all
13 the others. Just one personal note; I'm just here
14 really mainly in support as other people have been and
15 we won't take the time to reiterate that.

16 For the persons who have children, we
17 have three children who are now grown that spent all
18 their time in Central Cambria School District; so we
19 understand the parents' concern for those phone calls.
20 And another personal note, our medical relationships are
21 with Ebensburg; our physicians, our Veterinarian and
22 dentist and so on are all located in Ebensburg; so I'm
23 just here to support the persons who spoke with that.

24 I have added one personal thing. And
25 this may be a small thing but it's been my personal

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1 involvement for many, many years. I have been volunteer
2 and program coordinator, and that's why I used this
3 letterhead, for the Best of Friends Sportsman Program, a
4 therapeutic horsemanship program for handicapped
5 persons, for approximately ten years. And in this
6 capacity, I have to make many, many phone calls weekly
7 throughout the year, mostly May through August, to Board
8 members, riders and volunteers.

9 The Board of Directors currently has
10 three members in the 472 exchange. Each season we have
11 at least one rider and usually three to five volunteers
12 from Ebensburg. In several seasons, we've had at least
13 one instructor from Ebensburg. Now the numbers I'm
14 going to tell you now seem very, very minuscule to other
15 people's expenses; however, I have checked on this. And
16 this is approximately. I don't keep my phone bills.

17 There have been approximately in a
18 season, in a typical season, it would be maybe only \$12
19 to \$28 to the Ebensburg ones; but my other phone
20 bills --- I don't have that. I can't tell you that now,
21 other toll calls to Portage, Lily, Cresson and so on;
22 but I do understand that those are my responsibility.
23 As I said, our family donates our time and our phone
24 bill to call those persons. However, Ebensburg, because
25 of the proximity, those are the toll calls that I

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1 feel --- just in my last statement there and I'm done.
2 I think that since we are linked with Ebensburg in
3 personal and business relationships, those are the toll
4 calls that I felt probably were unnecessary; and I
5 respectfully request that Verizon consider discontinuing
6 those toll bills. That's it.

7 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you. Ms. Knight?

8 CROSS EXAMINATION

9 BY MS. KNIGHT:

10 Q. Just so I can clarify this, remember I'm just
11 reading this for the first time so I want to make sure I
12 understand this.

13 You said that you thought your bills were
14 approximately \$12 to \$28 each season?

15 A. That's the summer. Above that, I believe I listed
16 usually May through August.

17 Q. Oh, May through August?

18 A. May through August.

19 Q. I thought you said May through August.

20 A. But the other thing I didn't list on here, in
21 support of the other persons who spoke to that, is that
22 we do have many, many toll calls throughout the year
23 which I can't quantify right now for our personal
24 business.

25 Q. That's fine. I just needed to clarify. I didn't

1 hear you very precisely.

2 A. But those are --- I was asked to penalize this.

3 And that's my volunteer thing that I do; okay?

4 Q. I bet you get a lot of satisfaction from it, too.

5 I can tell.

6 A. Oh, yeah. That's why there's the letterhead.

7 Q. Thank you.

8 MS. KNIGHT: I have no further
9 questions.

10 MS. STICKLER: Thank you.

11 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you, Ms. Stickler.

12 (Witness excused.)

13 JUDGE CORBETT: Now there are a few other
14 witnesses who did not sign the sheet but who had earlier
15 indicated they wanted to testify. Would they come
16 forward at this time?

17 Yes, Ma'am? Did you previously take the
18 oath?

19 MS. BERDOMAS: Yes, I did.

20 JUDGE CORBETT: All right. Would you
21 begin by giving us your full name and spell your last
22 name for the Court Reporter, please.

23 Whereupon,

24 WENDY BERDOMAS

25 having been previously sworn, testified as follows:

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DIRECT TESTIMONY

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MS. BERDOMAS: My name is Wendy Berdomas,
B-E-R-D-O-M-A-S.

JUDGE CORBETT: And your address?

MS. BERDOMAS: My address is 189 Maywood
street, Johnstown 15909.

JUDGE CORBETT: And your telephone
number?

MS. BERDOMAS: My phone number is
322-4771.

JUDGE CORBETT: And you indicated a
Johnstown Post Office address, but can you locate where
you live a little more specifically for me?

MS. BERDOMAS: Yes. We live
approximately one mile from Mundys Corner off of 271
south.

JUDGE CORBETT: Yes. I see that. Thank
you. And what is your occupation?

MS. BERDOMAS: My occupation is Senior
Vice President, First Commonwealth Trust Company. I
work out of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

And this is very important for me this
evening to voice my opinion on why I believe that the
long-distance service to Ebensburg should actually be
more of a monthly maintenance charge of perhaps \$2 was

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1 mentioned by somebody earlier. First of all, because I
2 have two children, my husband and I, who is here also,
3 two children ages 6 and 8 that are at Jackson Elementary
4 School. And I can only foresee the future of the phone
5 calls and the hang ups and the codes because myself and
6 my three siblings lived through that whole era the
7 entire time that we grew up.

8 Everything that we've done throughout our
9 lives, again, has centered around Ebensburg; the
10 activities, the sports for the children, for myself. My
11 husband works at Admiral Perry Vo-Tech, and probably my
12 main concern, which is why we elected to pay a
13 baby-sitter so that we could be here tonight, is the
14 fact that I work out of Indiana but I travel in 19
15 counties. So it's very important that my mother, who
16 thankfully is our emergency contact at a 322 number,
17 would need to contact my husband in case of an emergency
18 for the children; because my husband being seven miles
19 from our home, working in Ebensburg, is much easier for
20 him to be reached than me someplace perhaps in Elk
21 County.

22 So I'm asking that even though you may
23 have indicated earlier that a survey of 1997 indicated
24 that there was not a need, perhaps it is because we all
25 grew up with this frugal attitude that we knew that

1 there was a code. The 14 cent, the 16 cent phone calls
2 that might be listed, we do some of that now. My
3 husband and I communicate --- he's required to use his
4 cell phone because we pay for the monthly service charge
5 on that.

6 So that is why that I believe that a
7 monthly, a flat monthly, rate of perhaps \$2 a
8 maintenance charge would be a great benefit to our
9 citizens of Jackson Township.

10 JUDGE CORBETT: You indicated that your
11 husband works at Admiral Perry School?

12 MS. BERDOMAS: Yes.

13 JUDGE CORBETT: In Ebensburg?

14 MS. BERDOMAS: Yes.

15 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Is that an
16 elementary school or a high school or ---?

17 MS. BERDOMAS: It's vocational ---
18 Vo-Tech School.

19 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. You may have said
20 that and I just --- it's getting late and my mind's
21 getting a little foggy. Okay. Thank you.

22 Ms. Knight, do you have any questions?

23 MS. KNIGHT: No. I have no questions.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. BERDOMAS: Thank you.

1 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you very much for
2 coming in.

3 (Witness excused.)

4 JUDGE CORBETT: Anyone else who took the
5 oath before or who wants to testify? Yes, ma'am? Did
6 you take the oath before?

7 MS. DESKEVICH: Yes.

8 Whereupon,

9 EILEEN DESKEVICH
10 having been previously sworn, testified as follows:

11 JUDGE CORBETT: All right. And would you
12 give us your full name, please, and spell your last name
13 for the Court Reporter.

14 MS. DESKEVICH: Eileen Deskevich,
15 D-E-S-K-E-V-I-C-H.

16 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. And where do you
17 live, ma'am?

18 MS. DESKEVICH: I live at 195 Mockingbird
19 Lane, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. That's right off of
20 271. I'm in-between Vinco and Mundys Corner. I'm off
21 Singer Hill.

22 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. And what is your
23 telephone number?

24 MS. DESKEVICH: (814)322-3111.

25 JUDGE CORBETT: What is your occupation?

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1 MS. DESKEVICH: I'm a housewife and I
2 just started babysitting; so I'm self-employed.

3 DIRECT TESTIMONY

4 MS. DESKEVICH: My concerns are we do ---
5 my children go to school but they go to a private
6 school, Holy Name in Ebensburg; so I have that versus
7 teenagers. One's in Third Grade and one's in First
8 Grade right now. So when I need to call the school or
9 at the beginning of the year to get bus routes to make
10 sure they are on the bus routes, that is also in
11 Ebensburg. So I need several calls. You can't ask them
12 to call you back.

13 I checked my phone bills from this last
14 month, October and September, and 22 calls, local calls,
15 19 of them are to Ebensburg. We do use mainly call back
16 systems for --- my in-laws live there. My brother lives
17 there and other people. The little boy that I watch,
18 his mother teaches at Ebensburg. So if I need to get in
19 touch with her, I need to pay to call. Just the hassle
20 of calling the 1-814-472 and whatever else, a lot of
21 times when you dial that, it comes back that it didn't
22 accept it; so you got to do it all over again.

23 And I volunteer at our church. I do
24 calling for getting people for offertory. And this is a
25 service for me, but there are several people in our area

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1 that are 472; so I need to call them off and on. I
2 don't keep track off and on how often I call; but when I
3 get a 472, it's like okay. Should I skip the person or
4 should I call them? I shouldn't feel that way, but a
5 lot of times if you're getting them, you don't want to
6 cut the people short either.

7 Also, I teach for the church for the
8 church for the CCD Program. And we were doing a program
9 to collect things and I had to contact Saint Vincent
10 DePaul in Ebensburg. That's a toll call for me. And
11 within the next several months until we're done with
12 this project, I will be making several calls to the
13 Ebensburg --- so again.

14 I do have a savings plan of 10 cents a
15 minute, but I'm paying for that 10 cents a minute quote
16 on there.

17 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Ms. Knight, do you
18 have any questions?

19 MS. KNIGHT: Just one question.

20 CROSS EXAMINATION

21 BY MS. KNIGHT:

22 Q. The savings plan, you have Verizon North as your
23 toll carrier --- as your local original carrier?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And I'm sorry. I didn't hear you. You live

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1 between Vinco and --- and I know it will be in the
2 transcript; but you live in-between Vinco and ---?

3 A. Mundys Corner. I'm off of 271 on there.

4 Q. So you're north of Vinco according to the map?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay.

7 MS. KNIGHT: I have no further questions
8 of this witness.

9 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you for coming in
10 ma'am.

11 (Witness excused.)

12 JUDGE CORBETT: Is there anyone else that
13 wants to testify? Thank you. Would you come forward,
14 sir? Did you take the oath before, sir.

15 MR. ANGELLO: Yes, I did Your Honor.
16 Whereupon,

17 JAMES ANGELLO
18 having been previously sworn, testified as follows:

19 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. And I believe I
20 saw your hand in the back.

21 MR. ANGELLO: Yes.

22 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay.

23 MR. ANGELLO: My name is James Angello,
24 A-N-G-E-L-L-O; 2125 William Penn Avenue. I'm in Wesley
25 Chapel near Vinco.

1 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. And what is was
2 your telephone number, sir?

3 MR. ANGELLO: 322-4524.

4 JUDGE CORBETT: And what is your
5 occupation?

6 MR. ANGELLO: I'm a retired Wall Street
7 Banker.

8 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. And would you give
9 us your statement?

10 DIRECT TESTIMONY

11 MR. ANGELLO: My statement is that, Your
12 Honor, I have four cats. And you say, well, how is that
13 relevant to this?

14 JUDGE CORBETT: I'm sure you'll tie it
15 in.

16 MR. ANGELLO: I'm going to tie it in. So
17 I look for the best Veterinarian I can get for my cats
18 because they're like my children --- you know. So the
19 best Veterinarian happens to be in Ebensburg. And so I
20 call up to get an appointment for an operation for one
21 of my cats and the receptionist, she's busy, and she
22 says I'm going to put you on hold. I says, look, don't
23 put me on hold. This is a long-distance call. She puts
24 me on hold anyway; so okay.

25 Before she put me on hold, before she

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1 dropped the phone, I could here her say, he's only in
2 Vinco. What's the long-distance --- you know. So she
3 hangs me up. She puts me on hold. And I says, okay.
4 I'm waiting. I'm waiting. It's three minutes. It's
5 four minutes. It's five minutes. I'm getting ready to
6 just disconnect the call. And finally, she picks up and
7 I said, hey, I just wanted to make an appointment for my
8 cat to get a thing; but I said, in the meantime, the
9 clock's ticking at Verizon because I have to pay it ---
10 you know.

11 So anyway, I didn't get her and then for
12 some reason she hung up on me and that was the end of my
13 call. So I then I drive up to Ebensburg to personally
14 make an appointment with my Veterinarian because he is
15 the best. And I say, hey, you know one of your
16 receptionists --- I says, I made a long-distance call
17 from my house but her and her buddy laughed about it
18 when they said to Vinco --- you know. So I says --- you
19 know, I think you need to reprimand her or at least say
20 something to her because it is a long-distance call for
21 me. He said, you know, you're right and I understand
22 that. I know where you're coming from and he says, I
23 will tell her; and that's basically my statement.

24 JUDGE CORBETT: Besides the Veterinarian,
25 sir, what other contacts do you have for Ebensburg?

1 MR. ANGELLO: Sometimes I call up for the
2 Courthouse because there's different things with gun
3 permits and stuff like that. So I do have frequent
4 calls going up to Ebensburg; more so than even Johnstown
5 really.

6 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Ms. Knight, any
7 questions?

8 MS. KNIGHT: Just a couple.

9 CROSS EXAMINATION

10 BY MS. KNIGHT:

11 Q. I'm trying to pin down --- did you say where you
12 live?

13 A. On William Penn Avenue. That's in Wesley Chapel.

14 Q. Right.

15 A. But it's really in the Vinco area. It's in Vinco.

16 Q. Oh, okay. So you do consider yourself a Vincoite?

17 A. Oh, yes.

18 Q. All right. So you do make calls to Johnstown, but
19 you believe you make more calls to Ebensburg?

20 A. Yes. I call more up to Ebensburg; yes.

21 Q. And did your cat come through the surgery all
22 right?

23 A. Oh, yeah. The cat came through fine.

24 MS. KNIGHT: I have no further questions,
25 Your Honor.

1 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you, sir, for
2 coming in.

3 (Witness excused.)

4 JUDGE CORBETT: Is there anyone else who
5 wants to testify that I have not called? Does anyone
6 else wish to testify? Okay.

7 I thought I saw a hand there for a
8 second. Ms. Lesko?

9 FURTHER DIRECT TESTIMONY

10 MS. LESKO: I did testify, but I guess
11 because I taught, I really feel for the children and I
12 did forget to tell you ---.

13 MS. KNIGHT: I can't hear you.

14 JUDGE CORBETT: Please come forward so we
15 can hear you and the Court Reporter can hear you.

16 MS. LESKO: Linda Lesko; I'm sorry. And
17 I forgot to tell you our district, Central Cambria, is
18 building a multimillion dollar youth center. Vinco
19 children will be going to be Ebensburg for that. It's
20 quite a large center. Governor Ridge was there to help
21 dedicate and give us funding and so forth. It is a
22 multimillion dollar project; so our students should have
23 access to that.

24 We have a weight room in the new high
25 school which I'm not sure if it's finished. When school

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1 started, it wasn't. A weight room --- I don't know how
2 involved you are with children. A lot of this is used
3 for our special --- you're not allowed to say Special Ed
4 anymore --- our exceptional children. They have to have
5 these programs. We have multihandicapped children in
6 our school systems. They need to have access to this
7 also on their own so the families can bring them up.
8 They can use these programs.

9 And I realize that Ebensburg is not that
10 far, the toll call is not that much, but it's an ongoing
11 thing. And many of the school programs --- Central
12 Cambria has an overwhelming State high status. We have
13 an excellent school. We are recognized by the State all
14 the time. We had State educators come into our school
15 unannounced and asked if they could visit our school
16 because our scores are just sky-high.

17 And our programs --- we were audited the
18 last year I taught, a year ago, for our exceptional
19 program. We do wonderful things for those children and
20 we provide for them; but they should have access to
21 them. And the families should be able to feel free to
22 call and come and use those without a burden,
23 financially or whatever. And even --- we just need that
24 for our students. We really do. And I hope you will
25 consider that.

1 That probably is the main core. We call
2 Ebensburg all the time. We have an Alzheimer's Center
3 in Ebensburg with one of our nursing homes. We have a
4 daycare center for adults in Ebensburg. We just need
5 Ebensburg. I'm sorry. We need it so badly, especially
6 the need programs; not just the fun, social type
7 things. We need it for the necessities. And I know
8 what it's like to have someone in the home handicapped.
9 And we need access to that at all times and those
10 students, those children, should be free to call to see
11 if that program is open, if there's going to be a
12 teacher there available for them. We provide it, but
13 they should feel that they can use it as they need it
14 and not feel bad like, I'm making an expense for my
15 family.

16 So I guess I just felt I had to say
17 that. I'm sorry.

18 JUDGE CORBETT: That's all right. Don't
19 be sorry. Wait, Ms. Lesko.

20 MS. KNIGHT: If you get another chance, I
21 get another chance.

22 CROSS EXAMINATION

23 BY MS. KNIGHT:

24 Q. You've been very eloquent this evening. I have
25 heard several people here voluntarily say that they do

1 place some value on being able to call. And I don't
2 know what the genesis of that was. Are you supportive,
3 as sort of ombudsman for this overture, to some sort of
4 flat rate of \$2 or \$3 to be able to call on a monthly
5 basis?

6 A. If you will notice when I did petitions, and I know
7 they're not legal, we asked for toll-free. And in
8 calling Consumer Advocate as they've helped me, I
9 understand that what I was told by one of their
10 attorneys is that usually the fee is approximately
11 \$1.30, \$1.50.

12 And I don't feel confident to speak for someone
13 else. Myself, that would be all right with me. And
14 there are many --- as I said, we do have --- I know one
15 of our disadvantages in asking for this EAS is that we
16 have --- I forget, over 13, 14 towns we can call. Many
17 of those towns --- I'm not going to tell you my age
18 because I'm not that young. I have no idea where they
19 are. I've never been to them. I just simply grew up in
20 this area. I've gone 12 years to Central Cambria. My
21 two sisters have; my father is a graduate of that system
22 in that, that is our interest.

23 And I really feel the children need to be
24 part of their school system. That is where they make
25 their lifetime friend relationships; and they need to

1 be --- you know, there's something about a kid when he
2 calls into school and you give the homework to the
3 mother; but Johnny and Suzy want to call their friends
4 and say, what did we do? That's part of being a kid.
5 And I really think that they should be able to do
6 that -- you know, sneak to their bedroom and call a
7 friend and feel confident. I think that's part of
8 growing up.

9 Q. But you do understand there are many school
10 districts that don't always include all the local
11 calling area --- you know, throughout the commonwealth?

12 A. I don't know. I mean, I'm sure you're telling me
13 the truth; but it just seems that 472 and Ebensburg now
14 also has 471. They have run out of 472 numbers --- can
15 call out, they have for --- I don't know; 10, 15 years.
16 And I could really, in all honesty --- at first I could
17 understand because they were Bell and we were GTE; but
18 now with everyone being under Verizon North, I just sort
19 of hope that we can reciprocate by letting and allowing
20 322 to call the Ebensburg area, also.

21 And there's no way I can overemphasize how many ---
22 like this year alone in Jackson, there will be 61 kids
23 leaving Fifth Grade. And even as they're in Jackson, as
24 I told you before, many of those programs, they go only
25 to Central to do, to the high school. The Jackson

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1 Township soccer team, all games are played at the high
2 school in Ebensburg. The Midget Football, those games
3 are played in Ebensburg because the field is there. We
4 really do need it; and I hope that you will open your
5 hearts and consider that very, very sincerely. Thank
6 you again.

7 JUDGE CORBETT: Thank you, Ms. Lesko.

8 (Witness excused.)

9 JUDGE CORBETT: One last time, is there
10 anyone who I have not called who wishes to testify at
11 this hearing?

12 Hearing no response, let me just say that
13 I certainly appreciate the turnout, the support that you
14 all have exhibited in appearing here tonight. I
15 understand it was a trip for you to be here and to take
16 an interest in this proceeding. My decision in this
17 case will probably not be issued until sometime during
18 the winter months. I hope it's issued before spring.
19 It depends upon when we can schedule the hearings in
20 Pittsburgh and when I get the opportunity to sit down
21 and draft a decision in this case. That decision will
22 be filed with the Commission and be served upon Ms.
23 Lesko and Mary Ann Kaschalk.

24 I should state for the record that Mary
25 Ann Kaschalk could not be here tonight. She called me

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1 on Monday to indicate that she had a death in the
2 family. And I indicated to her at that time that she
3 would be able to testify at the next hearings that we
4 have in Pittsburgh; so we'll handle it that way.

5 I thank you all for coming out. You'll
6 receive my decision in due course. Perhaps you can
7 I don't want to put all the burden on Ms. Lesko; but
8 perhaps you can start some type of a phone chain or some
9 way of keeping in touch with what goes on here through
10 some type of network that you set up; but this turnout
11 this evening has been very heartening. I certainly
12 appreciate everyone coming out and thank you very much.
13 The hearing is now adjourned. Thank you.

14 MS. KNIGHT: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 (Whereupon, at 9:24 p.m., the hearing was
16 adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter,
that the foregoing proceedings were taken
stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to
typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this
transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of
my ability.

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By: Paula A. Lowery
Paula A. Lowery

* * *

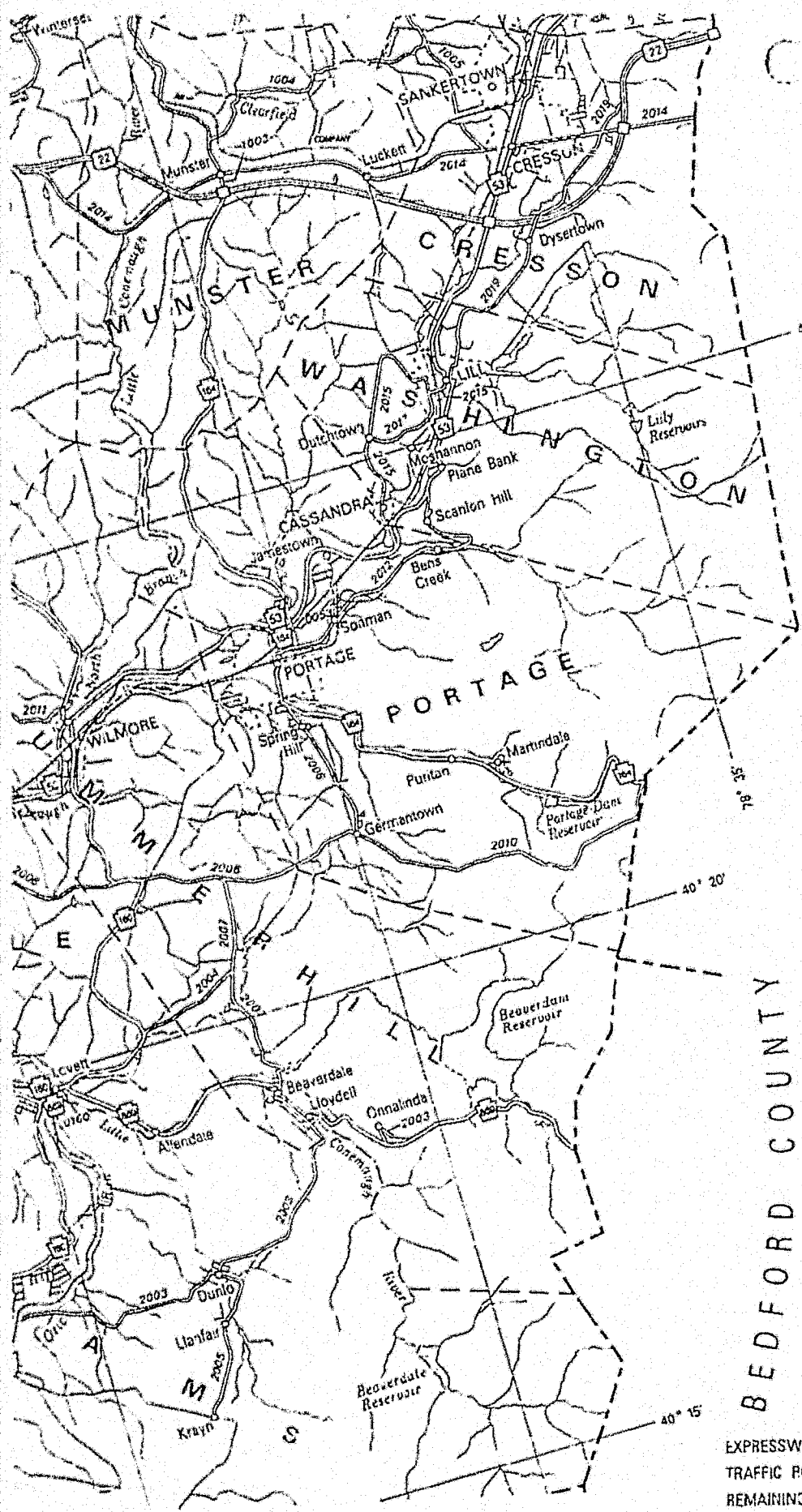
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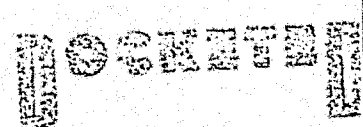
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