



Dear Counsel:

On November 20, 2019, Verizon Pennsylvania LLC Maryland LLC and Verizon North LLC (collectively Verizon), filed with this Commission a complaint against Metropolitan Edison Company, (Met-Ed), Pennsylvania Electric Company (Penelec), and Penn Power Company (Penn Power) (collectively Defendants) under Section 224 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the Act), 47 U.S.C. § 224.<sup>1</sup> Defendants should have a copy of the Complaint as served by hand-delivery by Verizon on November 21, 2019. If that is not the case, Defendants immediately should contact Commission counsel.

Anthony J. DeLaurentis and I are Commission counsel for this proceeding. My phone number is (202) 418-7336, and my e-mail address is [rosemary.mcenery@fcc.gov](mailto:rosemary.mcenery@fcc.gov). Anthony DeLaurentis's phone number is (202) 418-0198, and his e-mail address is [anthony.delarentis@fcc.gov](mailto:anthony.delarentis@fcc.gov).

This letter outlines the procedural rules relevant to this case and establishes a schedule for the proceeding. We will conduct this proceeding in accordance with the Commission's rules governing Section 208 formal complaint proceedings, which are found at 47 CFR §§ 1.720-1.740, as well as the additional rules relevant to pole attachment complaint proceedings, which are found at 47 CFR §§ 1.1401-1.1415.<sup>2</sup>

### **Schedule for this Proceeding**

The schedule for this proceeding is set forth below. All filings must comply with the Commission's rules and with this Notice.<sup>3</sup>

1) By **December 20, 2019**, Defendants must file and serve an answer to the complaint that complies with 47 CFR § 1.726. Any interrogatories posed by Defendants must be filed and served concurrently with the answer. 47 CFR § 1.730(a). Responses to any motions filed with the complaint should also be submitted with the answer.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Pole Attachment Complaint, *Verizon Pennsylvania LLC and Verizon North LLC v. Metropolitan Edison Company, Pennsylvania Power Company, and Penn Power Company*, Proceeding Number 19-354, Bureau ID Number EB-19-MD-008 (filed Nov. 20, 2019) (Complaint).

<sup>2</sup> See also *Amendment of Procedural Rules Governing Formal Complaint Proceedings Delegated to the Enforcement Bureau*, Report and Order, 33 FCC Rcd 7178 (2018) (*Rule Consolidation Order*); *Implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Amendment of Rules Governing Procedures to Be Followed when Formal Complaints Are Filed Against Common Carriers*, Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 22497 (1997) (*Formal Complaints Order*), Order on Reconsideration, 16 FCC Rcd 5681 (2001) (*Formal Complaints Recon Order*); *Amendment of Certain of the Commission's Part 1 Rules of Practice and Procedure Relating to the Filing of Formal Complaints Under Section 208 of the Communications Act and Pole Attachment Complaints Under Section 224 of the Communications Act*, Order, 29 FCC Rcd 14078 (2014) (*Formal Complaints Amendment Order*). The rules governing this proceeding differ significantly from the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. For example, the Commission requires parties to file fact-based pleadings. See *Formal Complaints Order*, 12 FCC Rcd at 54, para. 120, 47 CFR §§ 1.721(b)-(d), (r), 1.726(b). Further, Section 208 proceedings "are generally resolved on a written record consisting of a complaint, answer, reply, and joint statement of stipulated facts, disputed facts and key legal issues, along with all associated evidence in the record." 47 CFR § 1.721.

<sup>3</sup> Staff has authority under Sections 0.111 and 0.311 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.111, 0.311, to modify the filing deadlines and other requirements contained in the formal complaint rules as the circumstances of individual cases warrant and to the extent consistent with Section 1.740 of the rules, 47 CFR § 1.740. In addition, if a filing contains a citation to material that appears on the Internet, the filing must attach a hard copy of that material. See 47 CFR §§ 1.721(g), (k).

<sup>4</sup> Although motions to dismiss are permitted, they should be filed only in rare circumstances. 47 CFR § 1.729(d); *Rule Consolidation Order*, 33 FCC Rcd at 7182-83, paras. 13-14 ("[M]otions to dismiss are rarely warranted. The formal  
(continued....)

2) By **December 30, 2019**, Verizon must file and serve a reply to the answer that complies with 47 CFR § 1.728. Any second request for interrogatories posed by Verizon must be filed and served concurrently with its reply. 47 CFR § 1.730(a).

3) A party must file and serve any opposition and objections to the opposing party's interrogatories within seven calendar days after service of the interrogatories. Any interrogatories to which no opposition or objection is raised must be answered within 20 days after service. 47 CFR § 1.730(c).

4) The parties must meet to discuss the resolution or narrowing of as many issues as possible. Such discussions should include the following matters: settlement prospects, discovery, factual and legal issues in dispute, the case schedule, and the preparation of joint statements. *See* 47 CFR § 1.733(b). Based on these discussions, the parties should prepare joint statements of (a) stipulated facts, disputed facts, and key legal issues; and (b) all proposals agreed to and any disputes remaining regarding the matters listed in 47 CFR § 1.733(b)(1). The joint statements must be filed by **January 16, 2020**. The parties may submit these two joint statements in a single document if each is separately identified therein. **We strongly encourage the parties to devote substantial effort to developing comprehensive and detailed joint statements.** *See Formal Complaints Recon Order*, 16 FCC Rcd at 5696-97, para. 35.

5) An initial status conference in this proceeding has been scheduled for **January 30, 2020**, at 9:30 am (EDT), at the Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554. *See* 47 CFR § 1.733. We strongly encourage each party to include in the conference a client representative with knowledge of the central facts and authority to settle the dispute. After clearing security at the 12<sup>th</sup> Street entrance, the parties should call Anthony DeLaurentis at 418-0198 to be escorted to the conference. *See* 47 CFR § 1.733. **The parties also should be prepared to spend at least four hours in conference.**

6) The above schedule anticipates final action on the Complaint within 270 days of its filing. *See Rule Consolidation Order*, 33 FCC Rcd at 7185-6, paras. 22-23. The Enforcement Bureau has discretion to pause the 270-day review period where actions outside the Commission's control (such as settlement discussions or mediation) delay Commission review of the complaint or where the Bureau determines that the issues and record are particularly complex, necessitating additional time for discovery or briefing. *See* 47 CFR § 1.740(b); *Rule Consolidation Order*, 33 FCC Rcd at 7186, para. 23. In light of the 270-day review period, we will be disinclined to grant requests for deadline extensions, absent a showing of good cause. Further, tight deadlines will apply to any discovery and briefing that may be permitted in this matter, and discovery and briefing must be completed by **February 13, 2020**. The parties and their counsel should plan their schedules accordingly.

The parties must file a public version of all written submissions in this proceeding using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). All written submissions should (a) prominently contain the Proceeding Number and Bureau ID Number referenced above (*see, e.g.*, 47 CFR § 1.7), and (b) be addressed to the Commission Secretary. If a party seeks to file both a public version and a confidential version of a submission, it should file the public (redacted) version on ECFS and file the confidential (unredacted) version in hard copy form with the Office of the Commission Secretary. *See* 47 CFR § 1.731. In addition to filing the unredacted version with the Office of the Secretary, please leave at that office three additional unredacted hard copies marked as "Courtesy Staff Copies. EB-MDRD, 202-418-7330." *See* 47 U.S.C. § 154(i); 47 CFR § 1.734(e). The parties must serve all filings via e-mail, hand-delivery, or overnight delivery,

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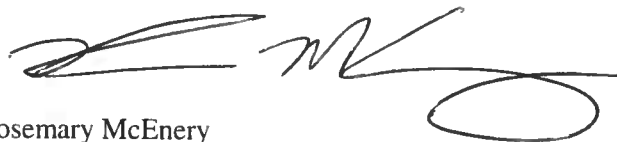
complaint rules "are designed so that a defendant's answer is a comprehensive pleading containing complete factual and legal analysis, including a thorough explanation of every ground for dismissing or denying the complaint." (quoting *Formal Complaints Recon Order*, 16 FCC Rcd at 5696, para. 34); *Rule Consolidation Order*, 33 FCC Rcd at 7183, para. 14 ("[W]e consider there to be few circumstances justifying the filing of a separate motion to dismiss . . .")).

together with proof of service. See 47 CFR § 1.734(f). Also, please email to Commission counsel for this proceeding courtesy copies of all filings (both public versions and confidential versions) in a format that permits full text searching, if possible. See 47 U.S.C. § 154(i); 47 CFR § 1.734(e). See *Formal Complaints Amendment Order*, 29 FCC Rcd at 14081, para. 11 (requiring parties to provide hard copies of submissions to Commission staff upon request).

This proceeding is restricted for *ex parte* purposes. See 47 CFR Part 1, Subpart H. Further, the parties are required to retain all records that may be relevant to the complaint, including electronic records, until the Commission's decision in this proceeding is final and no longer subject to judicial review. See 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 208(a); 47 CFR § 42.7.

We issue this letter ruling under Sections 4(i), 4(j), 208, and 224 of the Act, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j), 208, 224, Sections 1.3, 1.720-1.740, and 1.1401-1.1415 of the Commission's Rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.3, 1.720-1.740, 1.1401-1.1415, and the authority delegated in Sections 0.111 and 0.311 of the Commission's Rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.111, 0.311.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosemary McEnery', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Rosemary McEnery  
Division Chief, Market Disputes Resolution Division  
Enforcement Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Enforcement Bureau  
Market Disputes Resolution Division  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
Washington, DC 20554**

**March 23, 2020**

Via E-Mail

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Counsel for Defendants

Counsel for Complainant

**Re: *Verizon Pennsylvania LLC and Verizon North LLC v. Metropolitan Edison Company, Pennsylvania Electric Company, and Penn Power Company, Proceeding No. 19-354, Bureau ID No. EB-19-MD-008***

Counsel:

Enclosed find a copy of the Enforcement Bureau's Order entered in the above-captioned case.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

*Rosemary McEnery*

Rosemary McEnery  
Division Chief, Market Disputes Resolution Division  
Enforcement Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission

Enclosure

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of
Verizon Pennsylvania LLC and Verizon North LLC,
Complainants,
v.
Metropolitan Edison Company, Pennsylvania Electric Company, and Penn Power Company,
Defendants.
Proceeding Number 19-354
Bureau ID Number EB-19-MD-008

ORDER

Adopted: March 23, 2020

Released: March 23, 2020

By the Chief, Market Disputes Resolution Division:

- 1. On March 18, 2020, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PA PUC) certified to the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 224(c) that it:
(1) regulates the rates, terms, and conditions for pole attachments;
(2) in so regulating has the authority to consider and does consider the interests of the subscribers of the services offered via such attachments, as well as the interests of the consumers of the utility services; and
(3) has issued and made effective rules and regulations implementing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s regulatory authority over pole attachments.1
2. On March 19, 2020, the Commission issued a Public Notice of the receipt of the PA PUC’s certification pursuant to section 1.1405(c) of the Commission’s rules.2 Pursuant to section 1.1405(d) of the Commission’s rules,3 this proceeding is hereby transferred to the PA PUC.4 As a result, the Commission no longer has jurisdiction over this matter, and all future communications regarding this case should be directed to the PA PUC.

1 Letter from Renardo L. Hicks, Chief Counsel, PA PUC, to Marlene Dortch, Secretary, FCC, States That Have Certified That They Regulate Pole Attachments, WC Docket No 10-101 (filed Mar. 18, 2020).

2 States That Have Certified That They Regulate Pole Attachments, WC Docket 10-101, Public Notice, DA 20-302 (WCB Mar. 19, 2020).

3 47 CFR § 1.1405(d)

4 Accordingly, the Commission will forward all pleadings filed to date, including all discovery requests and responses and Commission rulings and orders, to the PA PUC.

3. Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, pursuant to sections 1, 4(i), 4(j), 208, and 224 of the Act, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151, 154(i), 154(j), 208, 224, and sections 1.3, 1.720-1.740 and 1.1401-1415 of the Commission's Rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.3, 1.720-1.740, 1.1401-1415, and the authority delegated in sections 0.111 and 0.311 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.111, 0.311, that this proceeding **IS TRANSFERRED** to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

4. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, pursuant to sections 1, 4(i), 4(j), 208, and 224 of the Act, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151, 154(i), 154(j), 208, 224, and sections 1.3, 1.720-1.740 and 1.1401-1415 of the Commission's Rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.3, 1.720-1.740, 1.1401-1415, and the authority delegated in sections 0.111 and 0.311 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.111, 0.311, that the proceeding before this Commission **IS CLOSED**.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION



Rosemary McEnery  
Chief, Market Disputes Resolution Division  
Enforcement Bureau

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
**Enforcement Bureau**  
**Market Disputes Resolution Division**  
**445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW**  
**Washington, DC 20554**

**March 24, 2020**

Via E-Mail

Ms. Shirley Spunaugle  
Manager of Compliance and Assignment  
Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
2nd Floor, Room-N201  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
[sspunaugle@pa.gov](mailto:sspunaugle@pa.gov)

**Re: *Verizon Pennsylvania LLC and Verizon North LLC v. Metropolitan Edison Company, Pennsylvania Electric Company, and Penn Power Company, Proceeding No. 19-354***

Ms. Spunaugle:

On March 19, 2020, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) issued a Public Notice of the receipt of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's (PA PUC) certification that it regulates the rates, terms, and conditions for pole attachments.<sup>1</sup> The Commission then issued the attached order transferring this proceeding pursuant to section 1.1405(d) of the Commission's rules.<sup>2</sup>

In order to facilitate the transfer of the above-referenced proceeding and its related filings (Commission Docket), we ask that the PA PUC open a proceeding into which the Commission can effectuate the transfer by eFiling the Commission Docket into the PA PUC proceeding.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this request, please contact Anthony DeLaurentis ([anthony.delarentis@fcc.gov](mailto:anthony.delarentis@fcc.gov)) who is coordinating our transfer efforts.

Thank you.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION



Rosemary McEnery  
Division Chief, Market Disputes Resolution Division  
Enforcement Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission

Enclosure

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<sup>1</sup> States That Have Certified That They Regulate Pole Attachments, WC Docket 10-101, Public Notice, DA 20-302 (WCB Mar. 19, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> 47 CFR § 1.1405(d).

Before the
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Adopted: March 23, 2020

Released: March 23, 2020

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3 47 CFR § 1.1405(d)

4 Accordingly, the Commission will forward all pleadings filed to date, including all discovery requests and responses and Commission rulings and orders, to the PA PUC.

3. Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, pursuant to sections 1, 4(i), 4(j), 208, and 224 of the Act, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151, 154(i), 154(j), 208, 224, and sections 1.3, 1.720-1.740 and 1.1401-1415 of the Commission's Rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.3, 1.720-1.740, 1.1401-1415, and the authority delegated in sections 0.111 and 0.311 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.111, 0.311, that this proceeding **IS TRANSFERRED** to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

4. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, pursuant to sections 1, 4(i), 4(j), 208, and 224 of the Act, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151, 154(i), 154(j), 208, 224, and sections 1.3, 1.720-1.740 and 1.1401-1415 of the Commission's Rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.3, 1.720-1.740, 1.1401-1415, and the authority delegated in sections 0.111 and 0.311 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.111, 0.311, that the proceeding before this Commission **IS CLOSED**.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION



Rosemary McEnery  
Chief, Market Disputes Resolution Division  
Enforcement Bureau