**BEFORE THE**

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Office of Consumer Advocate :

Office of Small Business Advocate :

 :

 v. : C-2023-3037574

 :

Commonwealth Telephone Company, LLC :

d/b/a Frontier Communications Telephone Company :

**PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER**

An Initial Telephonic Prehearing Conference is scheduled in the above-captioned proceeding for Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. The parties must connect to the Prehearing Conference by using the following conference call-in numbers:

Call-in number: 877-668-3814

PIN: 45310677

 The parties are directed to comply with the following directives:

1. All parties must serve us electronically (sthaas@pa.gov and jcoogan@pa.gov) with any document you file in this proceeding**.** If you send us any documents or correspondence, you must also send copies to all other parties in the case.

 2. Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §§1.21-1.23, you may represent yourself, if you are an individual or sole proprietorship, or you may have an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or admitted *pro hac vice*, represent you. However, if you are a partnership, corporation, trust, association, joint venture, other business organization, trust, trustee, legal representative, receiver, agency, governmental entity, municipality or other political subdivision, you must have an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or admitted *pro hac vice* represent you in this proceeding. Unless you are an

attorney, you may not represent someone else. Attorneys shall ensure that their appearances are entered in accordance with the provisions of 52 Pa. Code § 1.24(b).

3. Failure of a party to participate in the prehearing conference shall constitute a waiver of all objections to the agreements reached, and any orders or rulings issued with respect thereto.

4. Please review the regulation pertaining to prehearing conferences at 52 Pa. Code § 5.222. Be prepared to discuss possibilities for settlement, discovery issues, issues relating to the public input and evidentiary hearings that will be held, service among parties and all other procedural issues relevant to this proceeding. In addition, note subsection (d), which provides, in part:

(d) Parties and counsel are expected to attend the conference fully prepared for a useful discussion of all problems involved in the proceeding, both procedural and substantive, and fully authorized to make commitments with respect thereto. 52 Pa. Code § 5.222.

5. The following matters shall be addressed at the prehearing conference:

1. Establishment of the official service list. Each party will designate one name for the official service list.
2. Public input hearings.
3. Modification of the Commission’s rules pertaining to discovery (52 Pa. Code, Subchapter D) and subpoenas (52 Pa. Code §5.421).
4. Other matters that may aid in the orderly conduct and disposition of the proceedings and the furtherance of justice, including but not limited to the following:
5. Simplification of the issues;
6. The obtaining of admissions as to, or stipulations of, facts not in dispute, or the authenticity of documents which might properly shorten the hearing;
7. Limitations as to the number of witnesses;

(4) Limitations of time and scope for direct and cross-examinations;

6. The parties are directed to confer prior to the prehearing conference and attempt to develop a mutually acceptable litigation schedule. Deadlines may be determined by agreement of the parties, subject to our approval.

 7. On or before 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 7, 2023, each litigating party shall file and serve a prehearing memorandum which shall include (1) a proposed litigation schedule, (2) a list of the issues and sub-issues in this proceeding that the party intends to address and a statement of the party’s position on each of the issues and sub-issues listed, and (3) the names, business addresses, and telephone numbers of witnesses the party expects to call and the subject matter of each witness’ testimony.

 8. Please review the regulations relating to discovery, specifically 52 Pa. Code § 5.331(b), which provides, inter alia, that participants try to initiate discovery as early in the proceeding as possible, and 52 Pa. Code § 5.322, which encourages parties to exchange information on an informal basis. The parties are expected to pursue resolution of discovery issues among themselves; motions to compel should be filed only after such efforts have failed.

Date: March 9, 2023 /s/

 Steven K. Haas

 Administrative Law Judge

 /s/

 John Coogan

 Administrative Law Judge

**C-2023-3037574 - OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE AND OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE v. COMMONWEALTH TELEPHONE CO TA FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS COMMONWEALTH TEL CO LLC**

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