

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120**

**ADOPTION OF FEDERAL  
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULATIONS PURSUANT TO  
52 Pa. CODE § 77.4**

**PUBLIC MEETING OF JAN. 8, 2025  
3002672-LAW  
DOCKET NO. L-2018-3002672**

**STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN STEPHEN M. DeFRANK**

Before the Commission today for consideration is an Implementation Order in response to the Commission's Order entered October 8, 2024 at this docket. In that October 8<sup>th</sup> Order, the Commission adopted Section 1.1415 of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) regulations consistent with the Commission's own pole attachment regulations. Section 1.1415 requires the development of a Rapid Broadband Assessment Team to facilitate expedited dispute resolution procedures for disputes between pole owners and attachers and became effective at the federal level on July 25, 2024.

In the October 8<sup>th</sup> Order, the Commission recognized the expedited nature of the FCC's process. Deploying broadband services throughout Pennsylvania is fundamentally important to providing access to medical care, retail services, education, economic development and much more. Expediting the resolution process for broadband disputes will help increase the ongoing efforts to ensure Pennsylvanians, particularly those in rural and underserved areas, receive the broadband services they need. By shortening the dispute resolution process, we are reducing barriers to broadband deployment and ensuring that infrastructure investments can be made more swiftly and effectively.

Given the public importance of deploying broadband services throughout the Commonwealth, the action we take today reduces the timeline for our process by between one-third and one-half. Therefore, I will be voting in favor of the Implementation Order. I suggest that the Commission's pole attachment working group continue to consider how we can efficiently and effectively reduce the amount of time it takes to resolve these disputes. Those residents of the Commonwealth who still receive broadband services at reduced speeds, or not at all, deserve nothing less.

**January 8, 2025**  
**Date**

  
**Stephen M. DeFrank**  
**Chairman**