



Agenda Date: 7/10/19  
Agenda Item: IIIB

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Board of Public Utilities**  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314  
Post Office Box 350  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350  
[www.nj.gov/bpu/](http://www.nj.gov/bpu/)

OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION  
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF )  
COMCAST OF SOUTH JERSEY, LLC FOR A )  
RENEWAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TO )  
CONTINUE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND )  
MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM IN )  
AND FOR THE CITY OF MILLVILLE, COUNTY OF )  
CUMBERLAND, STATE OF NEW JERSEY )  
AUTOMATIC RENEWAL )  
CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL )  
DOCKET NO. CE18060632 )

**Parties of Record:**

**Dennis C. Linken, Esq.**, Scarinci Hollenbeck, LLC, on behalf of Comcast of South Jersey, LLC  
**Jeanne Hitchner**, Clerk, City of Millville, New Jersey

**BY THE BOARD:**

On June 23, 1982, the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") granted Harron Cablevision of New Jersey, Inc. a Certificate of Approval in Docket No. 842C-6898 for the construction, operation and maintenance of a cable television system in the City of Millville ("City"). Due to a series of Board approved transfers, the Certificate was held by Sammons Communications of New Jersey, Inc. ("Sammon's"). On June 3, 1993, the Board granted Sammons a Renewal Certificate of Approval in Docket No. CE92050600, for ten years from the date of issuance. Through a series of subsequent transfers, with the required Board approvals, the Certificate was held by Comcast Cablevision of South Jersey, Inc. ("Comcast"). On August 19, 2004, the Board issued Comcast a Renewal Certificate of Approval in Docket No. CE03030239.<sup>1</sup> Due to a name change, the current holder of the Certificate is Comcast of South Jersey, LLC ("Petitioner"). Although the Petitioner's above referenced Certificate expired on June 3, 2018, Petitioner is authorized to continue to provide cable television service to the City pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-25, pending disposition of proceedings regarding the renewal of its Certificate of Approval.

<sup>1</sup> On August 19, 2004, the Board granted a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Comcast Cablevision of South Jersey, Inc. for the City of Millville ("City"), in Docket No. CE03030239, but erroneously stated the expiration date of the Certificate as January 12, 2017. On May 5, 2015 the Board issued a Secretary's letter clarifying the expiration date to be June 3, 2018 for the City.

On May 3, 2018, the Petitioner notified the City of its intention to exercise its right under the automatic renewal provision of the City's municipal consent and the Renewal Certificate of Approval. On June 12, 2018, the Petitioner filed with the Board for Automatic Renewal of its Certificate of Approval for the City, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-16, 19, and 25 and N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.9 and 14:18-13.6. The filing indicates that the City's ordinance granting municipal consent to the Petitioner provided for an initial term of fifteen (15) years with an automatic renewal term of ten (10) years.

The petition for Automatic Renewal is based on the City's ordinance adopted on February 18, 2003 granting renewal municipal consent to the Petitioner. On February 28, 2003, the Petitioner accepted the ordinance, which provided, in part, for an automatic renewal term of ten (10) years.

The Board has reviewed the petition for an Automatic Renewal Certificate of Approval and the Application filed therein by the Petitioner. Based upon this review and the recommendation of the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications, the Board **HEREBY FINDS** the following:

1. The Petitioner possesses the requisite legal, character, financial, and technical qualifications for the awarding of a Certificate of Approval, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-22 to 29, N.J.A.C. 14:18-13-1 to 9.
2. The design and technical specifications of the system shall ensure that the Petitioner provides safe, adequate and proper service.
3. The Petitioner has represented that all previously required construction within the franchise territory is complete.
4. The franchise period as stated in the ordinance is ten (10) years, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-19 and 25. The Board finds this franchise period reasonable.
5. The City has reserved the right to review the Petitioner's performance with regard to the ordinance. In the event that the City shall find that the Petitioner has not substantially complied with the material terms and conditions of the ordinance, the City shall have the right to petition the Board for appropriate administrative action, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-47, provided, however, that the City shall first have given the Petitioner written notice of all alleged instances of non-compliance and an opportunity to cure the same within ninety (90) days of that notification. If, after such reasonable notice and opportunity to cure, the Petitioner has not cured any such findings of non-compliance, the City may petition the Board for appropriate administrative action, including modification and/or termination of the Certificate of Approval.
6. For any extension of service beyond the primary service area, the Petitioner shall utilize the line extension policy ("LEP") attached to the Certificate (Appendix "I"). The minimum homes per mile ("HPM") figure is 35.
7. The Petitioner's rates shall be regulated and tariffs shall be filed for all services, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, the Board, and the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications.

The Petitioner shall maintain informational tariffs for unregulated service rates and promptly file any revisions thereto.

8. Pursuant to statutory requirements, the ordinance specifies a complaint officer to receive and act upon complaints filed by subscribers in the City. In this case, it is the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications. All complaints shall be received and processed in accordance with any applicable rules.
9. The Petitioner shall maintain a local business office or agent for the purpose of receiving, investigating, and resolving complaints. The Petitioner currently maintains a local office located at: 2160 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Millville, New Jersey.
10. The franchise fee to be paid to the Township is specified to be 2% of the Petitioner's gross revenues from all recurring charges in the nature of subscription fees paid by subscribers for its cable television reception service in the Township. Additional regulatory fees shall be paid to the State in an amount not to exceed 2% of Petitioner's gross operating revenues derived from intrastate operations. The Board finds these fees to be reasonable.
11. The Petitioner shall provide public, educational, and governmental ("PEG") access services, equipment and facilities as described in the application. The Petitioner shall continue to offer a dedicated governmental and educational ("EG") access channel and a system wide EG channel. The Petitioner shall continue to provide and maintain the cable, modulators and equipment necessary for the City's EG channel to send and receive the return feed of the signal.
12. The Petitioner shall continue to maintain a dedicated fiber optic return line to a location designated by the City for the purpose of cablecasting live and/or recorded programming on the educational/governmental access channel. The Petitioner shall continue to maintain the following: a dedicated fiber optic return line from the municipal building to the high school; and a dedicated fiber optic return line from the municipal building to the Culver Administration Building.
13. The Petitioner has confirmed all required construction has been completed to realign the Laurel Lakes section of the City to feed from the existing headend that services all other sections of the City.
14. The Petitioner shall provide Total Preferred cable television service, or its equivalent, on one outlet, free of charge, to each school in the City, provided the school is located within 200 feet of active cable distribution plant. The school shall pay for each additional outlet installed by the Petitioner. The Petitioner shall waive monthly service charges for any additional outlets.
15. The Petitioner shall provide Total Preferred cable television service or its equivalent, on one outlet, free of charge, to each of the following: a) police and fire station; b) emergency management facility; and c) public library in the City, provided the facility is located within 200 feet of active cable distribution plant. The City shall pay for each additional outlet to any of the above facilities; however, the Petitioner shall waive monthly service charges for additional outlets.

16. The Petitioner shall provide free basic Internet service via high-speed cable modem on one non-networked personal computer in each qualified existing and future school in the City, at no charge, provided the facility is within 200 feet of active cable distribution plant. The Internet service shall be installed on a personal computer that is accessible to the students and shall not be used for administrative purposes only.
  
17. The Petitioner shall provide free basic Internet service via high-speed cable modem on one non-networked personal computer in each qualified existing and future public library in the City, at no charge, provided the facility is within 200 feet of active cable distribution plant. The Internet service shall be installed on a personal computer that is accessible to the library patrons and shall not be used for administrative purposes only.

Based upon these findings, the Board **HEREBY CONCLUDES**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17(a) and 28(c), that the Petitioner has the municipal consent necessary to support the petition; that such consent and issuance thereof are in conformity with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 to -64; that the Petitioner has complied or is ready, willing, and able to comply with all applicable rules and regulations imposed by or pursuant to State and federal law as preconditions for engaging in the proposed cable television operations; that the Petitioner has sufficient financial and technical capacity; that the Petitioner meets the legal, character, and other qualifications necessary to construct, maintain, and operate the necessary installations, lines, and equipment; and that the Petitioner is capable of providing the proposed service in a safe, adequate, and proper manner.

Therefore, the Petitioner is **HEREBY ISSUED** this Automatic Renewal Certificate of Approval as evidence of the Petitioner's authority to construct and operate a cable television system within the entirety of the City.<sup>2</sup>

This Automatic Renewal Certificate is subject to all applicable State and federal laws, the rules and regulations of the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications, and any such lawful terms, conditions, and limitations as currently exist or may hereafter be attached to the exercise of the privileges granted herein. The Petitioner shall adhere to the operating standards set forth by the Federal Communications Commission's rules and regulations, 47 C.F.R. § 76.1 *et seq.*, including but not limited to the technical standards 47 C.F.R. § 76.601 through § 76.630. Any modifications to the provisions thereof shall be incorporated into this Certificate.

Failure to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and orders of the Board or the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications or the terms, conditions, and limitations set forth herein may constitute sufficient grounds for the suspension or revocation of this Certificate.

This Automatic Renewal Certificate is issued on the representation that the statements contained in the Petitioner's applications are true, and the undertakings therein contained shall be adhered to and be enforceable unless specific waiver is granted by the Office of Cable

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<sup>2</sup> There was a second Certificate that was issued to Clover Cable Systems, Inc. ("Clover"), which was authorized to provide cable service to the Laurel Lake section of the City, pursuant to Docket No. CE85030254. Due to a series of Board approved transfers, the second Certificate was held by the Petitioner. The second Certificate was allowed to expire and the Petitioner incorporated that area into the entirety of the franchise territory and it was disposed of in Docket No. CE03030239.

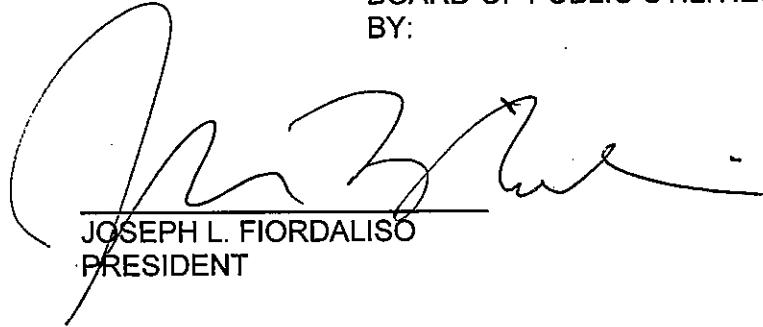
Television and Telecommunications pursuant to the authority contained in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 to 64.

This Certificate shall expire on June 3, 2028.

This Order shall be effective on July 20, 2019.

DATED: 7/10/19

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:



JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO  
PRESIDENT



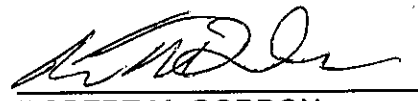
MARY-ANNA HOLDEN  
COMMISSIONER



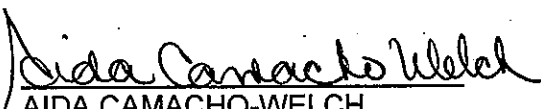
DIANNE SOLOMON  
COMMISSIONER



UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA  
COMMISSIONER



ROBERT M. GORDON  
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:   
AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH  
SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within  
document is a true copy of the original  
in the files of the Board of Public Utilities.

**APPENDIX "I"**  
**Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications**  
**Line Extension Policy**

Company: Comcast of South Jersey, LLC  
Municipality: City of Millville

A cable operator is required to absorb the cost of extensions to the system in the same proportion that the extension is to the remainder of the system.

Actual subscribers served by the extension are required to absorb the remainder of the cost.

If new subscribers are added to the extension, the cost is adjusted and those who previously paid receive an appropriate rebate.

1.  $\frac{\text{\# of homes in extension}}{\text{mileage of extension}} = \text{homes per mile ("HPM") of extension}$
2.  $\frac{\text{HPM of extension}}{\text{Minimum HPM that company actually constructs in the system*}} = \text{ratio of the density of the extension to the minimum density that the company constructs in the system ("A")}$
3.  $\text{Total cost of building the extension times "A"} = \text{company's share of extension cost}$
4.  $\text{Total cost of building extension less company's share of extension cost} = \text{total amount to be recovered from subscribers}$
5.  $\frac{\text{Total amount to be recovered from subs}}{\text{Total subscribers in extension}} = \text{each subscriber's share}$

In any case, the company shall extend its plant along public rights of way to:

1. All residences and businesses within 150 aerial feet of the operator's existing plant at no cost beyond the normal installation rate.
2. All residences and businesses within 100 underground feet of the operator's plant at no cost beyond the normal installation rate.

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\* The minimum HPM that the company actually constructs in the system or municipality is the minimum number of homes that the company has historically constructed at its own cost. This is a function of the operator's breakeven point and its rate of return. Unbuilt systems will use the primary service area rather than construction.

The operator's installation policies shall apply to construction beyond the public right of way.

Detailed accounting or financial information to support the minimum HPM shall be supplied to the Office for its approval in such form as required. The minimum HPM shall be updated as appropriate.

When a request for service is received, and unless good cause is shown, cable companies shall:

1. Provide a written estimate within thirty (30) days of such a request.
2. Begin construction within sixty (60) days of receipt of any deposit monies from potential subscribers.
3. Complete construction within six (6) months of receipt of any deposit monies from potential subscribers.
4. Inform each home passed along the extension of the potential costs for subscribers.

Subscribers who pay for an extension shall be entitled to rebates in the following manner:

1. If the company acquires new subscribers subsequent to the initial calculation of step 5 above, the formula will be adjusted and those who have previously paid for the extension will be entitled to an appropriate rebate. In no event shall the amount of the rebate exceed the subscriber's contribution.
2. The company shall keep accurate records of the cost of the extension, the amounts paid by subscribers, and any appropriate adjustments.
3. The company shall notify subscribers in the extension of their rights and responsibilities concerning the extension.
4. Once an individual dwelling has paid its share of the extension cost, future reconnections or installations shall be made at the company's standard rates.
5. After a period of five (5) years from the installation of the first dwelling unit in the extension, no further adjustments shall be made. Installations after five (5) years shall be at the company's standard rate.
6. Once a subscriber is installed, that person shall not normally be entitled to a refund of any monies paid for the installations, except in accordance with the rebate procedure outlined in this policy.

## **Definitions**

### Primary Service Area

The Primary Service Area ("PSA") can be an entire municipality, but in many instances the PSA is a limited area within a community outside of which a line extension policy may apply. The PSA is depicted by a franchise map and narrative, presented and recorded during the franchise proceedings. It normally remains a fixed geographic area throughout the life of the franchise.

### Line Extension Survey

Potential subscribers residing outside the PSA who request service are entitled to an estimate of their share of the cost to secure service. When conducting a survey and estimating costs, a cable company should factor in all potential subscribers who could practicably be included in the extension and give consideration to apparent residential construction in areas contiguous to the proposed extension.



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DOCKET NO. CE18060632

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