# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DRM 97-119 Rulemaking ) Puc 1300, Pole Attachments – Interim Rules ) & ) DRM 08-004 Rulemaking ) Puc 1300 Pole Attachments- Regular Rules )

### **COMMENTS OF VERIZON NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Verizon New Hampshire (Verizon NH) appreciates the opportunity to participate in the technical session of February 27, 2008 and to submit these comments to the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on how the interim rules for pole attachments, adopted on January 11, 2008, should be revised for promulgation as final rules.

1. In 2007 N.H. Laws 340:2, for at least two years after adoption of the enabling legislation, the New Hampshire Legislature directed the Commission to adopt interim rules for pole attachments "consistent with the regulations adopted by the Federal Communications Commission under Section 47 U.S.C. 224, including the formulae used to determine maximum just and reasonable rates." 2007 N.H. Laws 340:1, codified as RSA 374:34-a, in turn set forth the specific authority that the Legislature delegated to the Commission in regard to pole attachments.

2. The interim rules are not entirely consistent with the Legislature's delegation of authority. Specifically, Verizon NH recommends that N.H. Admin. Rules, Puc 1301 ("Purpose and Applicability") be modified to reflect the narrow scope of RSA 374:34-a and 47 U.S.C 224. Puc 1301:01 and Puc 1301:02 of the interim rules, for example, fail to

reflect the limitation set forth in RSA 374:34-a,II that "the commission shall regulate and enforce rates, terms and conditions for such pole attachments, *with regard to the types of attachments regulated under 47 U.S.C. section 224*, to provide that such rates, terms and conditions are just and reasonable" (emphasis added).<sup>1</sup>

3. 47 U.S.C. 224(a)(4) sets forth a specific definition of the types of pole attachments that are regulated:

The term "pole attachment" means any attachment by a cable television system or provider of telecommunications service to a pole, duct, conduit, or right-of-way owned or controlled by a utility.

4. To ensure compliance with the Legislature's delegation of authority, Verizon NH

recommends that Puc 1301 of the interim rules be amended to incorporate the relevant

statutory requirement, set forth in bold below:

# PART Puc 1301 PURPOSE AND APPLICABILITY

Puc 1301:01 <u>Purpose</u>. The purpose of Puc 1300, pursuant to the mandate of RSA 374:34-a, is to provide for the resolution of disputes involving the rates, charges, terms and conditions for pole attachments, with regard to the types of attachments regulated under 47 U.S.C. section 224.

Puc 1301:02 Applicability. Puc 1300 shall apply to

(a) Public utilities within the meaning of RSA 362, including rural electric cooperative for which a certificate of deregulation is on file pursuant to RSA 301:57, that own, in whole or in part, any pole used for wire communications or electric distribution

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> RSA 374:34-a,VI reiterates this limitation by prescribing nondiscriminatory access to poles "for the types of attachments regulated under this subdivision" (emphasis added) and not merely any attachments regardless of type.

(b) Cable television systems or providers of telecommunications services with facilities attached to poles, or seeking to attach facilities to such poles.

5. Finally, Verizon NH recommends that Puc 1301 include a new subsection that defines a pole attachment consistent with 47 U.S.C. 224(a)(4), as set forth above. This would further clarify the applicability of the rules and underscore compliance with the statutory requirements of RSA 374:34-a,II and VI.

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CHRISTOPHER J ALLWARDEN PUBLIC SVC OF NEW HAMPSHIRE 780 NORTH COMMERCIAL ST PO BOX 330 MANCHESTER NH 03105

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ALEXANDRA E BLACKMORE GRANITE STATE ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/ 25 RESEARCH DRIVE WESTBOROUGH MA 05182

FREDERICK J COOLBROTH DEVINE MILLIMET & BRANCH PA 43 N MAIN ST CONCORD NH 03301

VICTOR D DEL VECCHIO VERIZON NEW ENGLAND 185 FRANKLIN ST 13TH FL BOSTON MA 02110-1585

KARON DOUGHTY UNION TELEPHONE 7 CENTRAL ST PO BOX 577 FARMINGTON NH 03835

ROBERT E DUNN JR DEVINE MILLIMET & BRANCH PA 49 NORTH MAIN ST PO BOX 3610 CONCORD NH 03301

WILLIAM D DURAND NEW ENGLAND CABLE AND TELECOMMUN 10 FORBES RD STE 440W BRAINTREE MA 02184 PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMF 780 NORTH COMMERCIAL ST PO BOX 330 MANCHESTER NH 03105-0330

JEREMY L KATZ SEGTEL INC PO BOX 610 LEBANON NH 03766

ROBERT T HYBSCH

DEBRA A MARTONE TDS TELECOM PO BOX 337 11 KEARSARGE AVE CONTOOCOOK NH 03229-0337

KATH MULLHOLAND SEGTEL INC PO BOX 610 LEBANON NH 03766

JOHN NESTOR III VERIZON NEW HAMPSHIRE 900 ELM ST STE 1927 MANCHESTER NH 03101-2008

PAUL J PHILLIPS PRIMMER PIPER EGGLESTON & CRAMER PG 421 SUMMER ST PO BOX 159 ST JOHNSBURY VT 05819-0159

MEABH PURCELL DEWEY & LEBOEUF LLP 260 FRANKLIN ST BOSTON MA 02110-3173

GERALD M EATON PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMF 780 N COMMERCIAL ST PO BOX 330 MANCHESTER NH 03105-0330 CHRIS RAND GRANITE STATE TELEPHONE 600 SOUTHSTARK HIGHWAY PO BOX 87 WEARE NH 03281

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