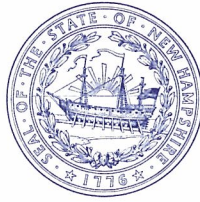


THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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May 20, 2010

Re: DT 10-025, FairPoint Communications, Inc.
Reorganization

To the Parties:

This letter sets forth how the Commission expects to conduct the remaining proceedings in the above-referenced docket.

I. Merits Hearing

On each hearing date, beginning May 24th, proceedings will commence at 9:00 a.m. and will proceed generally in four 90-minute blocks as follows: 9:00 to 10:30, 11:00 to 12:30, 1:30 to 3:00 and 3:30 to 5:00. The objective each day will be to conclude the proceedings by 5:00 p.m.

The Commission will limit its use of hearing time to cross examination (and any necessary redirect examinations) of witnesses who have previously submitted or sponsored written direct testimony or who are a signatory to an agreement filed for approval. Counsel should qualify witnesses in the normal manner but foregoing a summary of prefiled testimony. Direct examination shall include a brief statement as to the purpose of the testimony and those questions necessary to allow witnesses to correct or revise testimony as necessary. Inasmuch as the Accion Supplemental Report was filed on May 18, 2010, after FairPoint's May 7th rebuttal testimony, FairPoint in its direct case will be permitted to comment on the Accion report in its direct presentation. In addition, FairPoint should address the factual basis for its request to pledge its membership interest in VT Telco as part of its direct presentation. Redirect examination will be limited strictly to those matters raised for the first time on cross examination. Thereafter, the further examination of any witness will take place only upon a showing of its necessity. Consistent with RSA 541-A:32,III, to promote the orderly conduct of the proceedings the Commission will require intervenors to coordinate their cross-examination so as to avoid repetitive lines of inquiry.

In lieu of oral closing statements, the Commission will accept written submissions by June 4, 2010 as set out in the approved procedural schedule. To the extent any party wishes to address the motion for interim suspension of the March 31, 2010 broadband deployment deadline, it may do so orally at the close of the hearing or as part of its post-hearing written submissions.

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The order of witnesses will be as set forth in Non-Advocate Staff's letter filed on May 17, 2010.

II. Pre-marking of Exhibits

The Commission will require the parties to pre-mark exhibits to be identified at hearing as possible evidence. The parties should give the pre-filed direct testimony of each witness (with any attachments) an exhibit number but need not submit or circulate any additional copies at hearing. To promote the public interest and the orderly and efficient resolution of this proceeding, any conflicting provisions of Puc 203.22 (governing the submission of exhibits at hearing) are waived pursuant to Puc 201.05. Parties wishing to refer to prefiled direct testimony at hearing should bring their copies of such documents with them.

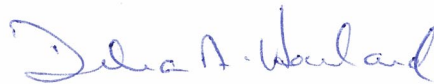
III. Confidential Material at Hearing

There is the likelihood that evidence will be proffered which is entitled to confidential treatment under RSA 378:43. The Commission will expect the parties to limit the presentation of such evidence to only that which is absolutely necessary. In particular, the Commission will expect the parties to, when feasible, ask witnesses to consider confidential material without disclosing it in their answers. Parties should, when practicable, group questions involving confidential material together so as to allow for the efficient creation of confidential and nonconfidential hearing transcripts.

When confidential materials are being introduced into evidence, the Commission will clear the hearing room of all persons who are not subject to a confidentiality agreement or who are otherwise prohibited from hearing confidential information.

The Commission thanks the parties for their cooperation in connection with the orderly resolution of this docket.

Sincerely,



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director