

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Before the**  
**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**LEVEL 3 COMMUNICATIONS —**  
**LICENSES BY NOTIFICATION PURSUANT TO RSA 371:17-b**

**CRS \_\_\_\_\_**

**Request for Licenses by Notification**

Level 3 Communications, LLC and Telcove Operations, LLC, doing business as Level 3 Communications (collectively, “Level 3”) respectfully request pursuant to RSA 371:17-b that the Commission issue permanent licenses for Level 3’s facilities that cross rivers, streams, other water bodies, and lands owned by the state in New Hampshire as of the effective date of the statute, June 19, 2013, as set forth on the attached list.<sup>1</sup>

**Discussion**

Level 3’s list was developed by overlaying information in its databases regarding the locations of its facilities over spatial GIS data in a recognized software application, ARC Maps.<sup>2</sup> The information in Level 3’s databases contains pole numbers and pole coordinates for some of the listed crossings. Where such information is available in its systems, Level 3 has provided it.

Generally, however, specific pole location coordinates and pole numbers do not exist in Level 3’s systems. These systems and the information in them were designed and are maintained to allow Level 3 to operate and maintain its network by geographically identifying and/or isolating components of its network in the event of a problem or trouble. The information was

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<sup>1</sup>In an accompanying motion, Level 3 requests confidential treatment for the specified list. Accordingly, a confidential, non-redacted version of the list is being filed in a separate, sealed envelope.

<sup>2</sup> Level 3 understands that the Commission does not have its own GIS databases. Accordingly, Level 3 used recognized commercial software.

not compiled to map specific pole locations. Where pole numbers and coordinates are available in Level 3's systems, such information typically reflects splices at the pole — a particular trouble spot whose location is useful to track. In most cases, however, the identifying numbers or coordinates of specific utility poles primarily concern others' networks and are not of particular use to Level 3 in maintaining its network or isolating troubles. Accordingly, since there was no compelling need to gather and maintain pole numbers and coordinates, Level 3 typically did not do so.

Level 3, therefore, has given the Commission the information that it is able to provide without a special manual study that would involve substantial time, effort, and resources. Level 3 stands ready to work with the Commission to refine or enhance its filing if reasonably necessary to align it more closely with the Commission's information needs. To accomplish this, Level 3 will review additional information, including right-of-way documentation, and/or conduct a field study. Level 3 will undertake to make a supplemental filing or file a status report by early July regarding information that can be obtained rapidly and by late July regarding information requiring field work.

With respect to the coordinates provided in the list, the ARC Maps program generally returns one data point per river and stream crossing, which represents the coordinates of the geographic feature beneath the crossing (or above for conduit crossings). Accordingly, for those cases, Level 3 has provided only one latitude/longitude point per crossing. Because these geographic features are narrow, one point provides reasonable accuracy as to the location of the crossing. In some instances, typically involving crossings of wider water bodies or rivers, Level 3 was able to obtain coordinates for either side of the crossing (e.g., the riverbanks at the point of crossing), and has provided that information where possible.

**Conclusion**

RSA 371:17-b provides that, upon receipt of the enclosed list, “no further inquiries or investigations by the commission shall be undertaken and the commission shall issue a final license.” Accordingly, Level 3 requests licenses for all crossings represented on the accompanying list.

June 18, 2015

By its attorney,

*/s/ Gregory M. Kennan*

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