

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
DOCKET NO. DT 07-011

DIRECT TESTIMONY  
OF  
JEFFREY BROWN, FIRE CHIEF

ON BEHALF OF MUNICIPALITY OF SEABROOK, NEW HAMPSHIRE, INTERVENOR

JULY 20, 2007

My name is Jeffrey Brown. I am the Fire Chief for the Town of Seabrook.

Educational and Professional Experience:

I have an Associates Degree in Fire Science, a Bachelors Degree in Fire/Emergency Management and a Juris Doctorate. I am a certified Firefighter and Fire Instructor in the State of New Hampshire and an Executive Fire Officer from the National Fire Academy. I have been Chief of the Seabrook Fire Department for 5 years, Deputy Chief for 8, a full time Firefighter for 8 years, a Call Firefighter for 2 years and a volunteer for 5 years. I served as Deputy Emergency Management Director for 6 years.

Describe Current Duties of Position with Town:

I am the Administrator for the Seabrook Fire Department. I am also responsible for the operations of the agency, emergency response, fire prevention and planning. I am responsible for the overall maintenance of the municipal fire alarm system and work closely with the Emergency Management Director on planning and response issues.

Purpose of Testimony:

The purpose of my testimony is to provide information on pole issues, such as pole attachments, the current Seabrook municipal network, and safety issues especially in regard to the nuclear power facility located in the Town of Seabrook, as they pertain to the proposed transaction between Verizon and FairPoint.

Existing Network:

Because of the importance of up-to-date emergency management in the Town due to the location of the nuclear station, Seabrook maintains a fiber-optic network, municipal fire-alarm system, and sewer-monitoring system on poles. The Seabrook Fire Department has maintained the fire-alarm system since 1963. The Department also completes any work for additions to the network. Seabrook has never paid fees for attaching to poles. Seabrook has constructed its municipal fiber-optic network by overlashing the fiber onto existing cables within the reserved municipal space. Seabrook did not pay fees associated with the fiber or execute any agreements to do so as the upgrade was merely an extension of the Town's existing facilities for governmental purposes. All cable maintained is for governmental purposes only and does not compete with the private industry.

Unlicensed Poles:

Seabrook has been unable to conduct extensive studies of unlicensed poles. The Town, however, has recorded GIS location data for 2665 poles, yet only has 527 pole petitions for licenses. Some of these petitions describe multiple poles, but the Town estimates that approximately 25% of the poles in the Town are unlicensed. One large example of unlicensed poles is in new subdivisions. When new subdivisions are built, the poles are placed without the licensing required by the Board of Selectmen, and any approvals by the Planning Board are not forwarded to the Town Clerk for recording pursuant to RSA 231:160-a. Unlicensed poles have not posed a safety issue yet. They do, however, create problems for assessing the value of the

public right-of-way, and for purposes of taxing the use by the pole owners, pursuant to New Hampshire law.

**Safety Issues:**

Seabrook's network provides essential communication for emergencies. Because the Town has a nuclear power plant within its jurisdiction, the Town must be especially alert and able to respond to situations quickly. Maintaining the network it currently has, the Town is able to serve its residents' need in this respect.

**Conclusion:**

The Town of Seabrook respectfully requests that the Commission require the following for approval of the proposed transaction between Verizon and FairPoint:

- Require FairPoint and Verizon to provide municipalities with accurate information about all poles licensed in each municipality;
- Require FairPoint to agree to permit municipalities to place and maintain networks for governmental purposes (including emergency management), on the poles, including overlashing fiber to upgrade existing networks.

**Joint Municipalities  
Exhibit 2P**

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