

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DT 07-011

JOINT PETITION BY VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC., ET AL.
AND FAIRPOINT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
TRANSFER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSETS OF
VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. ET AL.

TESTIMONY OF JOHN GREGG,
CHAIRMAN OF THE PORTSMOUTH CABLE COMMISSION
ON BEHALF OF THE
CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

AUGUST 1, 2007

1 **INTRODUCTION**

2

3 **Q. In what capacity do you serve with the City of Portsmouth?**

4 A. I am Chairman of the City of Portsmouth's Cable Commission.

5 **Q. Where do you reside?**

6 A. I reside at 69 Hunking Street, Portsmouth, NH.

7 **Q. What is the function of the Cable Commission?**

8 A. The Cable Commission is responsible for overseeing the performance of any
9 cable company operating in Portsmouth. It is responsible for holding
10 ascertainment hearings and negotiating in the first instance franchise
11 agreements with video service providers. The Cable Commission brings forward
12 such agreements and other cable/video matters to the City Council for review,
13 approval and/or action.

14 **Q. Does the Cable Commission have concerns relative to the proposed**
15 **Verizon-Fairpoint transaction?**

16 A. Yes.

17 **Q. Could you summarize those concerns?**

18 A. The Cable Commission believes that competition in the field of video providers
19 would be good for Portsmouth. The only video provider to date is Comcast.
20 Eighty five percent of Portsmouth residents presently subscribe to Comcast, and
21 their number one concern with the service is the price. Verizon verbally
22 announced their intention to bring video services to Portsmouth at the outset of
23 deploying fiber (the FIOS service) in Portsmouth. The Cable Commission

1 believes that video competition as promised by Verizon would be beneficial in the
2 long run in moderating the price of video as well as ensuring high quality. The
3 Commission is therefore disappointed that Verizon is not following through on
4 their verbal promise and concerned that Fairpoint will not deliver video services.
5 In view of the proposed transfer of assets from Verizon to Fairpoint, the
6 Portsmouth Cable Commission would like to see Fairpoint make a commitment
7 to follow through on plans to introduce video to Portsmouth.

8 **Q. Has the Commission taken any formal action?**

9 A. At the Cable Commission meeting on June 7, 2007 the commission passed the
10 following motion:

11 *"That the City seek assurances from Fairpoint that they will offer and provide*
12 *video services within two years of closing."*

13 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

14 A. Yes.