

Chu, Thomas

From: Camacho, Aida on behalf of Izzo, Kristi
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:26 AM
To: Deluca, John; Chu, Thomas; Hernandez, Erika
Cc: Centrella, Anthony; Artale, Carol
Subject: FW: Verizon New Jersey Docket No. T012020155

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From: tallibone@comcast.net [mailto:tallibone@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2014 4:02 PM
To: Izzo, Kristi
Cc: epurcell@njslom.com; Lora Olsen
Subject: Verizon New Jersey Docket No. T012020155

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
Kristi Izzo, Secretary
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Re. I/M/O Verizon New Jersey Inc.'s Alleged Failure To Comply With Opportunity New Jersey Commitments
BPU Docket No. T012020155

Dear Ms. Izzo:

I have carefully read and examined the proposed "stipulation settlement" and I am at a loss for words as to how the Governor would support the agreement. Needless to say, I have found it to be totally unacceptable as it does not require Verizon New Jersey to comply with the original "ONJ" commitments which included the completion of a statewide digital broadband fiber optic network by the end of 2010.

I am deeply concerned that BPU oversight has failed the New Jersey taxpayers who live and/or work in the "have not" communities. It is incomprehensible that Governor Christie and his administration would support the stipulation agreement as it is currently written and agreed to.

What the BPU discovered as part of the Stow Creek and Greenwich hearings is just the tip of the iceberg and should have been a wake up call. There are hundreds of towns around the State, including West Amwell Township that were never fiberized and Verizon has even stopped paying their real estate taxes to many of these towns causing a significant tax revenue shortfall.

As a resident of West Amwell Township in Hunterdon County as well as a recognized expert in the field of phone bill auditing, I have heard from a number of our community residents that were told by Verizon service

representatives that FiOS was not going to be deployed in West Amwell because our Township officials were blocking Verizon from building the network. This is a flat out lie and a total misrepresentation of the truth.

Shortly after the BPU approved Verizon's "systemwide video franchise", Verizon representatives initiated a meeting with the West Amwell Township Mayor which I attended. At this meeting Verizon officials said our Township would be wired in the future but they were starting with Ewing Township, Hopewell Township and Pennington Borough. At the closure of this meeting, we had a clear understanding that we would get FiOS at some point in the future.

When It became clear that Verizon was never going to make the 2010 deadline, Mayor Palladino sent a letter to BPU President Jeanne Fox but we never received any response or plan of action to be taken by the BPU regarding our concern.

The fact is, West Amwell Township, just like Stow Creek and Greenwich Township, has been denied all the economic benefits that the BPU determined to be "just and reasonable" when it approved "PAR I" and "PAR II".

Before the ink was even dry, Verizon back pedalled on its "ONJ" commitments from the very beginning, Ratepayer Advocate Blossom Peretz took very aggressive action to protect New Jersey ratepayers and to accelerate the fiber deployment to our schools as part of a new commitment called "Access New Jersey".

Verizon subsequently declared that it had completed "ANJ" and ran fiber to all the schools, however, based on my observations in West Amwell Township, it appears that the elementary school was never fiberized but Verizon has claimed 100% compliance.

To add insult to injury, the BPU last year, approved Verizon's systemwide video franchise renewal knowing that Verizon has publicly announced that it has no intention to build FiOS on a systemwide basis. To refresh the BPU's memory, the carrier had originally argued that it needed a "systemwide video franchise" so they could accelerate the installation and bring competition and economic benefits to the State sooner. It was clearly just a "bait and switch" strategy from the very beginning.

When "ONJ" was approved by the BPU, Verizon "formerly known as New Jersey Bell" had already deployed fiber in the backbone part of the network. According to the Deloitte Touche study that was commissioned by the BPU, and relied on by the BPU, 50% of the interoffice facilities were already on fiber and New Jersey Bell had planned to fiberize the entire State by 2030 if traditional public utility regulations remained in effect.

According to the annual "infrastructure reports" filed by Verizon, the carrier installed around 750 remote terminals so they could extend the "DSL" footprint. DSL is primarily a copper based technology that has significant distance and speed limitations. To achieve ubiquitous availability of DSL throughout a central office service area, Verizon supposedly ran fiber from the central office to these remote terminals to extend the DSL foot print.

Instead, it appears that Verizon has pulled another 'bait and switch' by diverting the fiber deployment to their wireless affiliate. Meanwhile, DSL service was never made available to much of West Amwell Township and I would encourage the BPU to go to each remote terminal and see if any fiber was even run.

I strongly urge every "have not" town in New Jersey to stand up for your community and the businesses that are located in your neighborhood.

Verizon should be required to build the fiber optic network to the premises instead of running fiber to the cell phone tower. If the BPU allows Verizon to build 4G LTE instead of the promised fiber optic network, it will not be very long before Verizon claims that they need more "radio spectrum" and we are held hostage again.

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