



Agenda Date: 8/18/21  
Agenda Item: IIIB

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Board of Public Utilities**  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Post Office Box 350  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350  
[www.nj.gov/bpu/](http://www.nj.gov/bpu/)

OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION  
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF COMCAST )  
NEW JERSEY II, LLC FOR A RENEWAL )  
CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TO CONTINUE TO )  
CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A )  
CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM IN AND FOR THE )  
TOWNSHIP OF CLARK, COUNTY OF UNION, )  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY )

AUTOMATIC RENEWAL  
CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

DOCKET NO. CE19050677

**Parties of Record:**

**Dennis C. Linken, Esq.**, Scarinci Hollenbeck, LLC, on behalf of Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC

**Edith Merkel, Clerk**, Township of Clark, New Jersey

**BY THE BOARD:**

On June 27, 1979 the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") granted Suburban Cablevision ("Suburban") a Certificate of Approval in Docket No. 795C-6472 for the construction, operation and maintenance of a cable television system in the Township of Clark ("Township"). On November 30, 1994, the Board approved the acquisition of the shares of the parent company of Suburban Cablevision, Maclean Hunter, Inc., by Comcast MH Holdings, Inc. in Docket No. CM94080365. On April 13, 1995, the Board approved the renewal of the Certificate of Approval in Docket No. CE94100471 to Comcast MH Holdings, Inc. (d/b/a Suburban). Subsequently, the company was known as Comcast Cablevision of New Jersey, Inc. ("Comcast New Jersey"). On January 24, 2003, Comcast New Jersey notified the Board that it would operate as a limited liability company, Comcast Cablevision of New Jersey II, LLC. On September 9, 2003, Comcast Cablevision of New Jersey, LLC notified the Board that it would be known as Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC ("Petitioner"). On October 22, 2004, the Board issued a Renewal Certificate of Approval to the Petitioner in Docket No. CE04070712. Although the Petitioner's above referenced Certificate expired on June 27, 2019, it is authorized to continue to provide cable television service to the Township pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-25, pending disposition of proceedings regarding the renewal of its Certificate of Approval.

On May 18, 2019, the Petitioner notified the Township of its intention to exercise its right under the automatic renewal provision of the Township's municipal consent and the Renewal Certificate of Approval. On May 29, 2019, the Petitioner filed with the Board for Automatic Renewal of its Certificate of Approval for the Township, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-16, 19, and 25 and N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.9 and 14:18-13.6. The filing indicates that the Township's ordinance granting municipal consent to the Petitioner provided for an initial term of fifteen (15) years with an automatic renewal term of ten (10) years.

The petition for Automatic Renewal is based on the Township's ordinance adopted on June 21, 2004, granting renewal municipal consent to the Petitioner. On July 23, 2004, the Petitioner accepted the ordinance, which provided, in part, for an automatic renewal term of ten (10) years.

The Board has reviewed the petition for an Automatic Renewal Certificate of Approval and the Application filed therein by the Petitioner. Based upon this review and the recommendation of the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications, the Board **HEREBY FINDS** the following:

1. The Petitioner possesses the requisite legal, character, financial, and technical qualifications for the awarding of a Certificate of Approval, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-22 to 29, N.J.A.C. 14:18-13.1 to .9.
2. The design and technical specifications of the system shall ensure that the Petitioner provides safe, adequate, and proper service.
3. The Petitioner has represented that all previously required construction within the franchise territory is complete.
4. The franchise period as stated in the ordinance is ten (10) years, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-19 and 25. The Board finds this franchise period reasonable.
5. The Township has reserved the right to review the Petitioner's performance with regard to the ordinance. In the event that the Township shall find that the Petitioner has not substantially complied with the material terms and conditions of the ordinance, the Township shall have the right to petition the Board for appropriate administrative action, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-47, provided, however, that the Township shall first have given the Petitioner written notice of all alleged instances of non-compliance and an opportunity to cure the same within ninety (90) days of that notification. If, after such reasonable notice and opportunity to cure, the Petitioner has not cured any such findings of non-compliance, the Township may petition the Board for appropriate administrative action, including modification and/or termination of the Certificate of Approval.
6. The Petitioner shall provide service along any public right-of-way to any person's residence or business located in all areas of the franchise territory at tariffed rates for standard and non-standard installation. In all other circumstances, the Petitioner shall utilize the line extension policy ("LEP") attached to the Certificate. The minimum homes per mile figure is thirty-five (35).
7. The Petitioner shall maintain informational tariffs for unregulated service rates and promptly file any revisions thereto.

8. Pursuant to statutory requirements, the ordinance specifies a complaint officer to receive and act upon complaints filed by subscribers in the Township. In this case, it is the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications. All complaints shall be received and processed in accordance with any applicable rules.
9. The Petitioner shall maintain a local business office or agent for the purpose of receiving, investigating and resolving complaints. Currently the local office satisfying this provision is located at: 2345 US Route 22, Union, New Jersey.
10. The franchise fee to be paid to the Township is specified to be 2% of the Petitioner's gross revenues from all recurring charges in the nature of subscription fees paid by subscribers for its cable television reception service in the Township. Additional regulatory fees shall be paid to the State in an amount not to exceed 2% of Petitioner's gross operating revenues derived from intrastate operations. The Board finds these fees to be reasonable.
11. The Petitioner shall provide public, educational and governmental ("PEG") access channels and facilities in accordance with its renewal application and the ordinance. Specifically, the Petitioner shall continue to provide residents with a system-wide public access channel maintained by the Petitioner. Qualified individuals and organizations may utilize public access for the purpose of cablecasting non-commercial access programming in conformance with the Petitioner's published public access rules. The Petitioner also maintains fully equipped operational local production studio in Union Township and Woodbridge Township for the creation of local and access programming.
12. The Petitioner shall continue to provide the Township with one dedicated local access channel, maintained by the Petitioner, for use by the Township and its designees for non-commercial governmental and educational programming.
13. The Petitioner shall continue to provide the relocated return and point of the access channel at the new master control room located at 430 Westfield Avenue. The Petitioner shall install an outlet for a monitor, which is not to be provided by the Petitioner, in the master control room at its own expense.
14. The Petitioner confirmed that it constructed and maintains three additional origination points at its sole expense to send non-commercial programming to the new master control room located at 430 Westfield Avenue as follows:

Three (3) fiber optic returns to originate from two (2) fixed cameras and one (1) remote controlled camera mounted in the Council Chamber at 315 Westfield Avenue. The returns shall allow operation of the cameras from the master control room at 430 Westfield Avenue. The Petitioner shall simultaneously relocate the cable outlet for a television monitor (not provided by the Petitioner) to the new master control, as described in Provision No. 13 above;

One (1) fiber optic return to allow non-commercial programming to originate from the Township high school auditorium or other location within the high school; and

One (1) fiber optic return to allow non-commercial programming to originate from the high school football field. The Petitioner shall install at its sole expense a transmitter and receiver for the return. The Petitioner shall also install and maintain, free of charge, a cable outlet and provide free preferred monthly service at the announcer's booth.

Upon completion of the above, the Petitioner submitted proof to the Office of Cable Television indicating its compliance with the requirements of this provision.

15. The Petitioner shall provide or continue to provide the standard installation and basic service, free of charge, to one (1) outlet at each public and private elementary and secondary school that exists or may be constructed within the Township, provided that the facility is within two hundred (200) feet of activated cable distribution plant. Each additional outlet installed, if any, shall be paid for by the requesting facility on a materials plus labor basis. Monthly service charges shall be waived on all additional outlets.
16. The Petitioner shall provide or continue to provide free installation and basic cable service on one (1) outlet in the municipal building, police department, fire department, first aid squad, public library and public works department that is located or may be constructed within the Township, provided that the facility is within two hundred (200) feet of activated cable distribution plant. Each additional outlet installed, if any, shall be paid for by the requesting facility on a materials plus labor basis. Monthly service charges shall be waived on all additional outlets.

Based upon these findings, the Board **HEREBY CONCLUDES**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17(a) and 28(c), that the Petitioner has the municipal consent necessary to support the petition; that such consent and issuance thereof are in conformity with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 to -64; that the Petitioner has complied or is ready, willing, and able to comply with all applicable rules and regulations imposed by or pursuant to State and federal law as preconditions for engaging in the proposed cable television operations; that the Petitioner has sufficient financial and technical capacity; that the Petitioner meets the legal, character, and other qualifications necessary to construct, maintain, and operate the necessary installations, lines, and equipment; and that the Petitioner is capable of providing the proposed service in a safe, adequate, and proper manner.

Therefore, the Petitioner is **HEREBY ISSUED** this Automatic Renewal Certificate of Approval as evidence of the Petitioner's authority to construct and operate a cable television system within the entirety of the Township.

This Automatic Renewal Certificate is subject to all applicable State and federal laws, the rules and regulations of the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications, and any such lawful terms, conditions, and limitations as currently exist or may hereafter be attached to the exercise of the privileges granted herein. The Petitioner shall adhere to the operating standards set forth by the Federal Communications Commission's rules and regulations, 47 C.F.R. § 76.1 et seq., including but not limited to the technical standards 47 C.F.R. § 76.601 through § 76.630. Any modifications to the provisions thereof shall be incorporated into this Certificate.

Failure to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and orders of the Board or the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications or the terms, conditions, and limitations set forth herein may constitute sufficient grounds for the suspension or revocation of this Certificate.

This Automatic Renewal Certificate is issued on the representation that the statements contained in the Petitioner's applications are true, and the undertakings therein contained shall be adhered to and be enforceable unless specific waiver is granted by the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications pursuant to the authority contained in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 to 64.

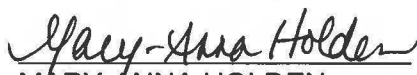
This Certificate shall expire on June 27, 2029.

This Order shall be effective on August 25, 2021.


DATED: 8/18/21

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:

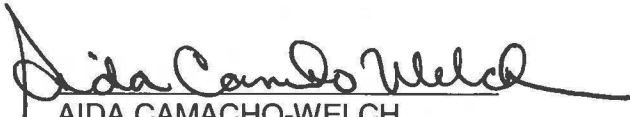
  
JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO  
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DIANNE SOLOMON  
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COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:   
AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH  
SECRETARY

**APPENDIX "I"**  
**Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications**  
**Line Extension Policy**

Company: Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC  
Municipality: Township of Clark

A cable operator is required to absorb the cost of extensions to the system in the same proportion that the extension is to the remainder of the system.

Actual subscribers served by the extension are required to absorb the remainder of the cost.

If new subscribers are added to the extension, the cost is adjusted and those who previously paid receive an appropriate rebate.

1.  $\frac{\text{\# of homes in extension}}{\text{mileage of extension}}$  = homes per mile ("HPM") of extension
2.  $\frac{\text{HPM of extension}}{\text{Minimum HPM that company actually constructs in the system*}}$  = ratio of the density of the extension to the minimum density that the company constructs in the system ("A")
3. Total cost of building the extension times "A" = company's share of extension cost
4. Total cost of building extension less company's share of extension cost = total amount to be recovered from subscribers
5.  $\frac{\text{Total amount to be recovered from subs}}{\text{Total subscribers in extension}}$  = each subscriber's share

In any case, the company shall extend its plant along public rights of way to:

1. All residences and businesses within 150 aerial feet of the operator's existing plant at no cost beyond the normal installation rate.
2. All residences and businesses within 100 underground feet of the operator's plant at no cost beyond the normal installation rate.

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\* The minimum HPM that the company actually constructs in the system or municipality is the minimum number of homes that the company has historically constructed at its own cost. This is a function of the operator's breakeven point and its rate of return. Unbuilt systems will use the primary service area rather than construction.

The operator's installation policies shall apply to construction beyond the public right of way.

Detailed accounting or financial information to support the minimum HPM shall be supplied to the Office for its approval in such form as required. The minimum HPM shall be updated as appropriate.

When a request for service is received, and unless good cause is shown, cable companies shall:

1. Provide a written estimate within thirty (30) days of such a request.
2. Begin construction within sixty (60) days of receipt of any deposit monies from potential subscribers.
3. Complete construction within six (6) months of receipt of any deposit monies from potential subscribers.
4. Inform each home passed along the extension of the potential costs for subscribers.

Subscribers who pay for an extension shall be entitled to rebates in the following manner:

1. If the company acquires new subscribers subsequent to the initial calculation of step 5 above, the formula will be adjusted and those who have previously paid for the extension will be entitled to an appropriate rebate. In no event shall the amount of the rebate exceed the subscriber's contribution.
2. The company shall keep accurate records of the cost of the extension, the amounts paid by subscribers, and any appropriate adjustments.
3. The company shall notify subscribers in the extension of their rights and responsibilities concerning the extension.
4. Once an individual dwelling has paid its share of the extension cost, future reconnections or installations shall be made at the company's standard rates.
5. After a period of five (5) years from the installation of the first dwelling unit in the extension, no further adjustments shall be made. Installations after five (5) years shall be at the company's standard rate.
6. Once a subscriber is installed, that person shall not normally be entitled to a refund of any monies paid for the installations, except in accordance with the rebate procedure outlined in this policy.

## **Definitions**

### Primary Service Area

The Primary Service Area ("PSA") can be an entire municipality, but in many instances the PSA is a limited area within a community outside of which a line extension policy may apply. The PSA is depicted by a franchise map and narrative, presented and recorded during the franchise proceedings. It normally remains a fixed geographic area throughout the life of the franchise.

### Line Extension Survey

Potential subscribers residing outside the PSA who request service are entitled to an estimate of their share of the cost to secure service. When conducting a survey and estimating costs, a cable company should factor in all potential subscribers who could practicably be included in the extension and give consideration to apparent residential construction in areas contiguous to the proposed extension.



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A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK, COUNTY OF  
UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DOCKET NO. CE19050677

SERVICE LIST

Dennis C. Linken, Esq.  
Scarinci Hollenbeck, LLC  
Post Office Box 790  
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071-0790  
[dlinken@sh-law.com](mailto:dlinken@sh-law.com)

Edith Merkel  
Township Clerk  
Township of Clark  
430 Westfield Avenue  
Clark, NJ 07066  
[clerk@Clark.org](mailto:clerk@Clark.org)

Charles L. Smith, III Senior Director  
Government and Regulatory Affairs  
Comcast  
800 Rahway Avenue,  
Union, NJ 07083  
[Charles\\_smith4@comcast.com](mailto:Charles_smith4@comcast.com)

Meliha Arnautovic, Esq.  
Deputy Attorney General  
Department of Law and Public Safety  
Division of Law  
25 Market Street, Post Office Box 116  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
[Meliha.Arnautovic@law.njoag.gov](mailto:Meliha.Arnautovic@law.njoag.gov)

**Board of Public Utilities**  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Post Office Box 350  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Lawanda R. Gilbert, Esq., Director  
Office of Cable Television and  
Telecommunications  
[lawanda.gilbert@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:lawanda.gilbert@bpu.nj.gov)

Nancy J. Wolf  
Administrative Analyst 4  
Office of Cable Television and  
Telecommunications  
[nancy.wolf@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:nancy.wolf@bpu.nj.gov)

Carol Artale, Esq.  
Deputy Chief Counsel  
[carol.artale@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:carol.artale@bpu.nj.gov)

Lanhi Saldana, Esq.  
Counsel's Office  
[lanhi.saldana@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:lanhi.saldana@bpu.nj.gov)