



Agenda Date: 9/18/23  
Agenda Item: IIIA

**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 SERVICE )  
ELECTRIC CABLE T.V. OF HUNTERDON, INC. FOR ) RENEWAL CERTIFICATE OF  
THE RENEWAL OF THE CERTIFICATE OF ) APPROVAL  
APPROVAL FOR THE CONTINUED )  
CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND )  
MAINTENANCE OF A CABLE TELEVISION AND )  
CABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE )  
TOWNSHIP OF GREENWICH, COUNTY OF )  
WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY. ) DOCKET NO. CE20080537

**Parties of Record:**

**Thomas Kelly, Esq.**, on behalf of Service Electric Cable T.V of Hunterdon, Inc.  
**Lisa Burd, Township Clerk**, Township of Greenwich, New Jersey

**BY THE BOARD:**

On April 8, 1981, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) granted Sammons Communications of New Jersey, Inc. (“Sammons”) a Certificate of Approval (“Certificate”) in Docket No. 804C-6672, for the construction, operation and maintenance of a cable television system in the Township of Greenwich (“Township”). On December 9, 1992, the Board granted Sammons a Renewal Certificate of Approval (“Renewal Certificate”) for the Township in Docket No. CE91071241. On February 21, 1996, the Board approved the transfer of the Certificate from Sammons to Service Electric Cable TV of Hunterdon, Inc. (“Petitioner”), in Docket No. CM95100503. On July 6, 2005, the Board issued a Renewal Certificate to the Petitioner for the Township in Docket No. CE03050361. Although, by its terms, the Petitioner’s above referenced Renewal Certificate expired on July 6, 2020, the Petitioner 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.

The Petitioner filed an application for the renewal of its municipal consent with the Township in August 2019, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-23 and N.J.A.C. 14:18-13.1 through 9. On May 21, 2020, the Township, after public hearing, adopted an ordinance granting renewal municipal consent to the Petitioner (“Ordinance”). The Petitioner formally accepted the terms and conditions of the ordinance on August 21, 2020. On August 25, 2020, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-16, the Petitioner filed with the Board for a renewal of its Certificate for the Township.

## **DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS**

The Board has reviewed the application for municipal consent, the Ordinance, and the petition for a Renewal Certificate. 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. Further, these qualifications were reviewed by the Township in conjunction with the municipal consent process.
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 15 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 at any time to enforce and/or terminate the franchise according to applicable laws, rules and regulations for the Petitioner's failure to perform any of its commitments and obligations as set forth in the Ordinance. Prior to enforcement or termination, the Township shall give the Petitioner 60 days written notice to cure the noncompliance. In the event that noncompliance continues, the Township shall file a petition with the Board seeking such relief as is appropriate under the circumstances.
6. The Petitioner shall proffer service to any residence along any public right-of-way in the Primary Service Area, at no cost beyond standard and non-standard installation charges as set forth in the Petitioner's application. The Petitioner shall utilize the Line Extension Policy attached to the Certificate (Appendix 'I'). The minimum homes per mile ("HPM") figure is 25.
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. During the term of this franchise, and any renewal thereof, the Petitioner shall maintain a local business office or agent for the purpose of receiving, investigating, and resolving complaints regarding the quality of service, equipment malfunctions, and similar matters. The Petitioner currently maintains a local office located at 37 Sitgreaves Street, Phillipsburg, 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 or any additional amount thereafter required by N.J.S.A. 48:5A-30. 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 access channels and facilities in accordance with its renewal application and the Ordinance. Specifically, the Petitioner shall maintain one shared channel with public, educational, and governmental access programming. The channel is available as determined by the sharing municipalities.
12. The Petitioner has supplied, without charge, all engineering, labor and materials and other costs for a LAN interconnection of Stewartsville Middle School, Greenwich Elementary School, the existing municipal buildings and the new firehouse and first aid squad building on Greenwich Street at Lot 7, Block 26, which consists of a dedicated six strand single-mode fiber optic cable. This is a dark fiber line and the Municipality or the school district will be responsible for providing the equipment to light the fiber optic cable and for the facilities and equipment at the ends of the cable/LAN. The provision of the above services consists of running the Petitioner's cable through municipal rights of way and other provided easements. The Petitioner has provided proof that the commitment has been met.
13. The Petitioner shall provide free installation and basic monthly cable service to one (1) service outlet, to the following facilities: the municipal building, Greenwich Township School, each police, fire, first aid, emergency management facility, Department of Public Works, and Township-operated community center at no cost. Similarly, the feed for each library, municipal building, fire company and rescue squad shall be capable of distributing signal to each office and other multiple areas in each building. Each additional outlet installed, if any, shall be paid for by the institution requesting same on materials plus labor basis. This obligation shall apply to any new facilities in the preceding categories constructed during the term of municipal consent.
14. The Petitioner shall provide free installation of internet services to the following facilities: the municipal building, Greenwich Township School, each police, fire, first aid, emergency management facility, Department of Public Works, and Township-operated community center. This obligation shall apply to any new facilities in the preceding categories constructed during the term of municipal consent. The company is not required to provide the monthly service free of charge.
15. At the request of the Township, the Petitioner and Township's designee shall meet at least semiannually to review all matters relating to cable television in the Township, with the minutes of such meetings to be delivered to the Petitioner and to be filed with the Township.
16. If the Petitioner adopts reduced rates for senior citizens or disabled persons in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:5A-11.1 et seq. or any other law or regulation, these special rates shall be offered to qualified Township Residents.

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, and 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 Renewal Certificate as evidence of Petitioner's authority to construct and operate a cable television system within the entirety of the Township.

This 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 and/or the terms, conditions, and limitations set forth herein may constitute sufficient grounds for the suspension or revocation of this Certificate.

This 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 July 6, 2035.

This Order shall be effective on September 25, 2023.

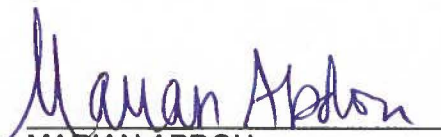
DATED: September 18, 2023

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:

  
CHRISTINE GUHL-SADOVY  
PRESIDENT

  
MARY-ANNA HOLDEN  
COMMISSIONER

  
DR. ZENON CHRISTODOULOU  
COMMISSIONER

  
MARIAN ABDOU  
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:   
SHERRI L. GOLDEN  
SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within  
document is a true copy of the original  
in the files of the Board of Public Utilities.

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

Company: Service Electric Cable TV of Hunterdon, Inc.  
Municipality: Township of Greenwich, County of Warren

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

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.

\* 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.



IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF SERVICE ELECTRIC CABLE T.V. OF HUNTERDON,  
INC. FOR THE RENEWAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FOR THE CONTINUED  
CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A CABLE COMMUNICATIONS  
SYSTEM IN THE TOWNSHIP OF GREENWICH, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW  
JERSEY.

DOCKET NO. CE20080537

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**Board of Public Utilities**

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