

PUBLIC UTILITIES

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE OF THE OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION

Proposed Readoption with Amendments: N.J.A.C. 14:17

Proposed New Rule: N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.11

Proposed Repeal: N.J.A.C. 14:17-1.5, 14:17-6.16, and 14:17-6.17

Authorized By: Lawanda R. Gilbert, Director, Office of Cable Television (with approval of the Board of Public Utilities, Christine Guhl-Sadovy, President; Mary-Anna Holden, Dr. Zenon Christodoulou, Ph.D., and Marian Abdou, Commissioners).

Authority: N.J.S.A. 48:5A-10.

Calendar Reference: See Summary below for explanation of exception to calendar requirement.

BPU Docket Number: CX23100741.

Proposal Number: .

A **public hearing** concerning the notice of proposal will be held on April --, 2024 at [INSERT TIME] at:

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

First Floor

Board Hearing Room

44 South Clinton Ave., 1st Floor

Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

The deadline for comments on this matter is 5:00 p.m. on ----, 2024. Please submit comments directly by using the Board's [Public Document Search](#) tool, search for the specific docket listed above and post by utilizing the "Post Comments" button. Written comments may also be submitted. Please include subject matter and docket number and submit to:

Sherri L. Golden

Secretary of the Board

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

44 South Clinton Ave., 1st Floor

P.O. Box 350

Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Attn: BPU Docket Number: CX23100741

Email: board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Phone: 609-292-1599

All comments are considered "public documents" for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act. Commenters may identify information that they seek to keep confidential by submitting it in accordance with the confidentiality procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3.

The agency proposal follows:

Summary

Pursuant to the New Jersey Cable Television Act (Cable Television Act), specifically N.J.S.A. 48:5A-9 and 10, the Director of the Office of Cable Television (OCTV), with approval of the Board of Public Utilities (hereinafter, "the Board"), is empowered to promulgate rules and procedures necessary to carry out the purposes of the Cable Television Act. N.J.A.C. 14:17

contains the procedural rules governing cable television companies. These rules are necessary to ensure orderly regulation of the cable television industry in the State of New Jersey.

By filing this notice of rules proposed for readoption with amendments and a proposed new rule with the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law prior to March 24, 2024, the expiration date of these rules is extended 180 days to September 20, 2024, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1.c(2). The Board has provided a 60-day comment period on this notice of proposal. Accordingly, this notice is excepted from the rulemaking calendar requirements set forth at N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.1 and 3.2, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.3(a)5.

The Board proposes that N.J.A.C. 14:17 be readopted with certain amendments. These amendments are categorized as: technical changes for clarity of the rules; and amendments to conform the rules with the general rules of practice for the Board (N.J.A.C. 14:1), as well as Federal law and changes in State statute (N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.). In developing the rulemaking, the Board conducted stakeholder outreach through public meetings and acceptance of written comments by interested parties.

Following is a section-by-section summary of the rules proposed for readoption and the proposed amendments and new rule.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-1.1 pertains to the scope of the rules and is proposed for readoption with an amendment for clarity purposes.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-1.2 pertains to construction of and amendments to the rules and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend subsection (b)2 to permit a person or

entity seeking a waiver of OCTV rules to apply electronically in addition to in writing and to permit such applications to be made to the Board Secretary in addition to the Director.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-1.3 defines certain words and terms utilized in this chapter and is proposed for readoption with amendment. A definition for “electronically filed” has been added.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-1.4 designates the OCTV's official address and is proposed for readoption with amendment. An amendment to this section is proposed to reflect the correct mailing address for the Board in new subsection (a) and the Board’s official hours, which have been deleted from N.J.A.C 14:17-1.5 and relocated as subsections (b) and (c) in this section

N.J.A.C. 14:17-1.5 designates the official hours of the OCTV. This section is being deleted and consolidated into the previous section 14:17-1.4, and will be reserved for future use.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-1.6 pertains to the transmittal of communications with the Board and the OCTV and is proposed for readoption with amendment. Amendments to subsections (a) and (c) are proposed to reflect the correct mailing address for the Board. The Board proposes amendments to subsection (a) to permit filing with the Board Secretary by email, electronically, hand delivery or mail. The Board proposes deletion of subsection (d) to conform with amendments to N.J.A.C. 14:1-1.6 governing when communications filed with the Board are deemed received.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-1.7 pertains to public records maintained by the Board and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend subsection (b) to clarify that certain documents can be received by email or regular mail upon payment of appropriate fees.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-1.8 pertains to the use of cameras and recording devices at proceedings before the Board and the role of the Office of Communications in making arrangements for such use and is

proposed for readoption with amendment. The proposed amendment substitutes the term “fitting dignity and” with the word “proper” at subsection (a), which relates to the conduct of Board proceedings.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-2.1 notes that the Board and the OCTV have statutory authority to collect fees and charges, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq., and N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. N.J.A.C. 14:17-2.1(b) is intended to parallel the Board's rule at N.J.A.C. 14:1-2.1, in that the collection of fees and charges is inapplicable to cable television operators, except for as otherwise provided for. N.J.A.C. 14:1-2.1 provides that, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-72, the collection of fees and charges shall be inapplicable to public utilities subject to assessment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-59. This section is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-2.2 requires all fees to be paid prior to the acceptance of any filing or the processing of any request for copies of documents and is proposed for readoption with amendment. An amendment to subsection (a) is proposed for clarification purposes. An amendment to subsection (b) is proposed to reflect the correct mailing address for the Board.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-3.1 pertains to evidence of authority to appear before the Board and is proposed for readoption with amendment to clarify that such authority is subject to New Jersey Administrative Code sections N.J.A.C. 1:1-5.1, 5.2, and 5.4.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-3.2 pertains to ethical conduct before the Board and ex parte communications and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-3.3 pertains to the appearance of former Board employees and members of the Attorney General's Office before the Board for six months after severing their association with the

Board and beyond and is proposed for readoption with amendment to clarify what constitutes an appearance and provides exceptions to the six-month prohibition (as new subsection (b)).

N.J.A.C. 14:17-4.1 defines pleadings before the Board and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-4.2 sets forth the number of copies of pleadings to be filed with the Board and is proposed for readoption with amendment to change the number of required copies from 10 to one when filed by hard copy and to make other clarifications.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-4.3 pertains to attachments to pleadings and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The existing text has been reformatted as subsection (a) and provides clarifications. New subsection (b) provides that this section shall not apply to entities exempted by the Federal Communications Commission from using the Uniform System of Accounts.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-4.4 pertains to defective pleadings and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-4.5 pertains to service and notice of proceedings and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-4.6 pertains to verification of pleadings and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-4.7 pertains to the amendment of pleadings as a result of changes in fact or circumstances and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.1 pertains to the form and content of petitions and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.2 pertains to those occasions where the relief sought in a petition also requires the approval or authorization of any other State or Federal regulatory body and is proposed for readoption with amendment to change the number of required copies of any application or amendment thereof to such government bodies and any issued order or certificate relating to such application from three to one.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.3 pertains to the joinder of requests for relief and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.4 pertains to the procedures to be employed by the OCTV upon filing of a petition and is proposed for readoption with amendments to correct a grammatical error in subsection (a) and maintain consistency with N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.4.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.5 pertains to filing of complaints in lieu of petition and to complaint procedures where the OCTV is designated as complaint officer and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend subsection (a) to update the filing method to electronic filing from facsimile or other writing. The Board further proposes to amend subsection (i) to correct typographical errors in New Jersey Administrative Code citations and grammatical errors.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.6 pertains to petitions for certificates of approval and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to clarify the section heading. The Board further proposes to amend subsection (a) to correct typographical errors in New Jersey Administrative Code

citations and grammatical errors; and to clarify that applications for cable television franchise must be provided on a standard form supplied by the Office,

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.7 pertains to petitions for approval of the modification or amendment of the terms or conditions of a municipal consent upon which a certificate of approval is based and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend subsection (a) to correct typographical errors in New Jersey Administrative Code citations and grammatical errors.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.8 pertains to petitions for approval of the transfer of certificates of approval or system-wide cable television franchises and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend subsection (a) to correct typographical errors in New Jersey Administrative Code citations. The Board also proposes to correct grammatical errors in subsections (a) and (b).

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.9 pertains to petitions for renewal of certificates of approval and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend subsection (a) to correct typographical errors in New Jersey Administrative Code citations and grammatical errors. The Board further proposes to require a copy of the current certificate of approval be provided as part of the petition.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.10 pertains to petitions for the approval of the sale or lease of property and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend subsection (a) to correct typographical errors in New Jersey Administrative Code citations and grammatical errors and to amend subsection (a)1 to clarify that an original and one copy of Schedule “A” as described is required

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.11 is currently reserved. The Board proposes a new section pertaining to petitions for initial or renewal system-wide franchises. The petitions are required to conform to the provisions at N.J.A.C. 14:17-4 and N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 to the extent applicable and to contain six attached exhibits listed in subsection (a).

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.12 pertains to petitions for reconsideration of assessments and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend subsection (a) to correct typographical errors in New Jersey Administrative Code citations and grammatical errors.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.13 pertains to petitions for authority to issue stocks, bonds, notes, other evidence of indebtedness, or to execute mortgages and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend subsection (a) to correct typographical errors in New Jersey Administrative Code citations and grammatical errors. The Board also proposes to amend subsection (a)6 to clarify the language.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.14 pertains to petitions for authority to transfer capital stock and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend subsection (a) to correct typographical errors in New Jersey Administrative Code citations and grammatical errors.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.15 pertains to petitions for permission to lend money or property and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend subsection (a) to correct typographical errors in New Jersey Administrative Code citations and grammatical errors.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.16 presently pertains to tariff filings that do not propose increases in charges to customers. This section is proposed for deletion pursuant to changes in federal law preempting the Board's regulatory authority over cable television rates.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.17 pertains to tariff filings or petitions, which propose increases in charges and requires Board adherence to FCC rate regulation rules. This section is proposed for deletion pursuant to changes in federal law preempting the Board's regulatory authority over cable television rates.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.18 pertains to petitions for approval of a merger or consolidation and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend subsection (a) to correct typographical errors in New Jersey Administrative Code citations and grammatical errors.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.19 pertains to petitions for permission to keep books and records outside the State of New Jersey and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend subsection (a) to correct typographical errors in New Jersey Administrative Code citations and grammatical errors and to update required contact information for petitioner's statutory agent.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.20 pertains to petitions by municipalities for permission to charge a franchise fee above that prescribed in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend subsection (a) to correct typographical errors in New Jersey Administrative Code citations and grammatical errors.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.21 pertains to petitions to set aside municipal or county refusal of zoning or other necessary authorization refusal pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17.e and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend subsection (a) to correct typographical errors in New Jersey Administrative Code citations and grammatical errors. The Board further proposes to amend subsection (b) to update filing information and subsection (c) to clarify that hearings will not be held in the affected community.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.22 requires anyone wishing to act as a private aggregator for the purpose of facilitating the joint municipal consent action by two or more municipalities to register with the OCTV and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-7.1 pertains to the form and content of answers and replies filed in proceedings before the Board and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend this section to clarify and update the procedural process consistent with state and federal law.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-7.2 pertains to the time for the filing of answers and replies filed in proceedings before the Board and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-8.1 sets forth the purposes of conducting pre-transmittal conferences and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-8.2 pertains to the initiation of pre-transmittal conferences and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-8.3 pertains to the stipulation of pre-transmittal conference results and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend subsection (a) to change the number of copies of a written stipulation required to be filed with the Board from three copies to an original and one copy pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:17-4.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-8.4 sets forth the authority of Board or OCTV-designated officers and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-8.5 pertains to approval of settlements and is proposed for readoption without amendment. N.J.A.C. 14:17-9.1 sets forth the procedures to be followed in contested cases and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-9.2 pertains to oral argument before the Board after receipt of an initial decision and the exceptions and answers thereto and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-9.3 pertains to the review of an initial decision by the Board on its own motion and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-9.4 sets forth the method of reopening a hearing prior to the issuance of a final decision by the Board and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-9.5 pertains to motions to reopen a proceeding after the issuance of a final decision by the Board and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-9.6 pertains to motions for the rehearing, reargument, or reconsideration of a proceeding and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-9.7 pertains to motions and answers on rehearing and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to clarify the section heading and to add a new subsection (e) to address appeals of Board orders in accordance with court rules. This new subsection provides that appeals must be made to the Appellate Division within 45 days and clarify the rules and procedures governing an appeal.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-10.1 pertains to uncontested case proceedings before the Board and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-10.2 pertains to the designation by the Board of a person to act as the Board's representative to conduct a hearing in an uncontested matter pending before the Board and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-10.3 pertains to the filing of pleadings, correspondence, and other documents regarding an uncontested case and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to change the person with whom filings are made from “presiding officer” to Secretary of the Board.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-10.4 pertains to the use of cameras and recording devices in uncontested cases and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend the section to make a grammatical correction.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-10.5 pertains to appearances before the Board in uncontested cases and is proposed for readoption with amendment. The Board proposes to amend the section to make a grammatical correction.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-10.6 requires that three days be added to any prescribed period when service is made by mail and is proposed for readoption without amendment. .

N.J.A.C. 14:17-10.7 is reserved.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-11.1 requires parties to whom an order is directed to notify the Board on or before the date specified in said order, whether or not the party has come into compliance. The section is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-11.2 requires a party to respond within 15 days to any recommendation made by the Board and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-11.3 pertains to the extension of time limits for compliance and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:17-11.4 requires that a cable television company must submit a report within 15 days of receipt of any letter or notice from the Board or the OCTV directing an investigation of any matter under its jurisdiction and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

Social Impact

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and a new rule govern the procedural rules for initial petition filings and uncontested cable television matters brought before the Board and/or the Director of the OCTV.

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and a new rule are designed to insure orderly practice and procedure before the Board and the OCTV by establishing both guidelines and specific requirements pertaining to the filing of petitions requesting relief from the Board or the OCTV, and to all other submissions related thereto, as well as to the handling of all proceedings before the OCTV and to the participation and conduct of all affected parties. As the rules set forth the specific information that must be included in all filings, as well as the time frames within which said information must be submitted, the rules proposed for readoption are essential if the OCTV is to process those petitions lawfully before it in an expeditious and just manner. While the majority of matters before the OCTV are brought by regulated cable television companies, petitions are also filed by persons who have grievances against regulated cable television companies or who seek other relief that is within the jurisdiction of the Board and OCTV.

Economic Impact

This chapter imposes procedural requirements on cable television operators. Thus, it has some impact on operating costs, which are, to some extent, passed on to the subscriber.

While the rules proposed for readoption with amendments and a new rule impose no direct or specific costs, with the exception of the cost for filing of petitions and for hearings, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-16, 17, and 18, all petitioners and other parties will incur varying levels of expenses in preparing and litigating petitions before the Board. Said expenses will include costs related to legal assistance, accounting work, engineering input, and expert witnesses, as well as to those expenses involved in physically preparing and filing the appropriate submissions. It is believed that the reduction in the amount of copies to be filed will result in some minimal cost savings. With regard to regulated cable companies, all reasonable levels of expenses incurred in complying with these requirements will be considered business expenses recoverable through customer charges. All fees and charges associated with practice and procedures before the Board and OCTV are set forth pursuant to statute N.J.S.A. 47:1A-2 and 48:5A-1 et seq.

Federal Standards Statement

While many of the rules proposed for readoption with amendments and a new rule are subject to Federal laws, rules, regulations, and standards, including rate regulations and associated procedures (47 CFR 76.900), the Board does not believe that any of the rules proposed for readoption with amendments and a new rule conflict with or exceed Federal standards. Instead, the rules either directly codify existing Federal requirements or are explicitly within the scope of regulation that the Federal government reserved for the local franchising authority, which in this case is the Board.

Jobs Impact

It is not anticipated that the rules proposed for readoption with amendments and a new rule will result in the creation of new jobs or the loss of existing jobs. The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and a new rule will not have an impact on any other sector of the economy of the State of New Jersey.

Agriculture Industry Impact

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and a new rule will have no impact on the agricultural industry.

Regulatory Flexibility Statement

There are no small businesses, as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq., to which the rules proposed for readoption with amendments and a new rule would apply. The businesses affected all have more than 100 full-time employees and/or are based out-of-State.

Housing Affordability Impact Analysis

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and a new rule will have no impact on the cost of housing or number of housing units. The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and a new rule concern practice and procedure before the Board of Public Utilities.

Smart Growth Development Impact

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and a new rule will have no impact on the cost of housing, the number of housing units, or new construction within Planning Areas 1 and 2, or designated centers, under the State Development and Redevelopment Plan. The proposed

readoption with amendments and a new rule concerns practice and procedure before the Board of Public Utilities.

Racial and Ethnic Community Criminal Justice and Public Safety Impact Statement

The proposed amendments and proposed new rules will not have an impact on pretrial detention, sentencing, probation, or parole policies concerning adults and juveniles in New Jersey. Accordingly, no further analysis is required.

Full text of the rules proposed for readoption may be found in the New Jersey Administrative Code at N.J.A.C. 14:17.

Full text of the rules proposed amendments and new rule follows (additions indicated in boldface **thus**; deletions indicated in brackets [thus]):

CHAPTER 17 – RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE OF THE OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION

SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

14:17-1.1 Scope

These rules shall govern practice and procedure before the Office of Cable Television [and within] **of** the Board of Public Utilities.

14:17-1.2 Construction and amendment

(a) These rules shall be liberally construed to permit the Office to effectively carry out its statutory functions and to secure just and expeditious determination of issues properly presented to the Office.

(b) In special cases and for good cause shown, the Office with the concurrence of the Board may relax or permit deviations from [these rules] **this chapter**.

1. The Office, with the concurrence of the Board, shall, in accordance with the general purposes and intent of its rules, waive section(s) of its rules if full compliance with the rule(s) would adversely affect the customers of a cable television company, the ability of said cable television company to render safe, adequate and proper service, or the interests of the general public;

2. Any person or entity seeking waiver of any of the Office's rules or parts thereof[,] shall apply in writing, **or electronically, through email**, to the Director **and Board Secretary**. A [written] request for waiver shall include the following:

i. The specific rule(s) or part(s) thereof for which waiver is requested;

ii. The reasons for the request of waiver, including a full statement setting forth the type and degree of hardship or inconvenience that would result if full compliance with the rule(s) would be required; and

iii. Documentation to support the request for waiver.

3. The Office reserves the right to request additional information before reaching a determination regarding the application for waiver.

(c) The rules may be amended by the Office with the approval of the Board, from time to time.

14:17-1.3 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Board" means the Board of Public Utilities.

"Certificate" means a certificate of approval issued by the Board pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.

"Commissioner" means a member of the Board of Public Utilities.

"Director" means the Director of the Office of Cable Television.

“Electronically filed” means submitted to the Board Secretary through the Board’s External Access Portal, <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/>, or emailed to Board.Secretary@bpu.nj.gov.

"Office" means the Office of Cable Television .

"Presiding Officer" means any member of the Board, the Director, or an Office staff member who is designated as a hearing examiner in an uncontested case.

"Secretary" means and shall include the Secretary, Assistant Secretary to the Board or any other person duly authorized to act in such capacity by the Board.

14:17-1.4 Offices **and hours**

(a) The statutory offices of the Board, the [office of the] Secretary of the Board, and the Office of Cable Television are located at 44 South Clinton Avenue[, 3rd Floor, Suite 314,] PO Box 350, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350.

(b) All offices of the Board are open on weekdays from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., unless otherwise authorized by the Board.

(c) The offices are closed on legal holidays, Saturdays and Sundays.

14:17-1.5 [Hours] **Reserved**

[(a) All offices of the Board are open on weekdays from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., unless otherwise authorized by the Board.

(b) The offices are closed on legal holidays, Saturdays and Sundays.]

14:17-1.6 Communications

(a) All pleadings, correspondence, and other papers should be [addressed] **submitted to the Board Secretary by email, filed electronically through the Board's External Access Portal, hand delivered, or mailed** to the Secretary, Board of Public Utilities, 44 South Clinton Avenue, [3rd Floor, Suite 314,] PO Box 350, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350.

(b) All such papers and correspondence shall be deemed to be officially received when filed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:1-1.6.

(c) Additional copies of such pleadings and correspondence for the Director and staff may be sent to the Director, Office of Cable Television, **Board of Public Utilities** , 44 South Clinton Avenue, [3rd Floor, Suite 314,] PO Box 350, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350.

[(d) As (a) and (b) above require that all correspondence be addressed to the Board and that said submission shall be deemed to be officially received when delivered at the office of the Board, any documents received via fax or electronically pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:1-4.2A will neither be date/time stamped as formally received by the Board nor be entered into the case or rulemaking record, except as provided under N.J.A.C. 14:1-1.6 or 4.2A. Such documents shall only be distributed to the addressee.]

14:17-1.7 Official records

(a) The Secretary shall have custody of the Board's seal and its official records, including the minutes of all action taken by the Board.

(b) Copies of rules and regulations and orders and decisions of the Board will be furnished by the Secretary **by email or regular mail** upon payment of appropriate fees.

14:17-1.8 Cameras and recording devices

(a) Proceedings before the Board or Office shall be conducted with [fitting dignity and] **proper** decorum.

(b) The use of cameras and recording devices, including still cameras, movie cameras, television cameras, tape recorders and stenotype machines (hereinafter referred to as "equipment"), in open meetings or other public proceedings conducted by the Board or Office is permitted.

(c) Any accredited member of a news media desiring to use such equipment shall first contact the Board's Office of Communications to arrange for the set-up and removal of equipment so as not to interfere with the orderly conduct of the proceedings.

(d) No such equipment shall be placed on the counsel tables, witness stand or on the Board or the presiding officer's bench, without the approval of the Board or presiding officer; equipment which would require the user to move about the room during the proceedings is prohibited. Moving about the meeting or hearing room in order to more advantageously use such equipment is prohibited, while the meeting is in session.

(e) Except for portable equipment which is used at an individual's seat in the audience, such equipment must be in place and ready for use prior to the start of the meeting or set-up during a recess thereof. Such equipment may be removed only at the conclusion of the meeting or during a recess. A pre-arranged recess for the set-up or removal of such equipment may be requested through the Office of Communications.

(f) The Board or presiding officer may suspend the operation of all or part of this rule with respect to a particular meeting.

(g) The Board or the presiding officer may at any time limit or prohibit the use of any or all of such equipment in meetings where in the opinion of the Board or the presiding officer use of such equipment may obstruct the conduct of the meeting.

SUBCHAPTER 2. FEES AND CHARGES

14:17-2.1 Amount of fees and charges

(a) The fee required to defray administrative expenses of hearings held pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-16, 17, and 18, where applicable, shall be \$ 500.00 per day of hearing or portion thereof, to be paid by the petitioner or other moving party.

(b) All other fees and charges which the Office has been empowered, authorized and required by law to charge and collect are set forth in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.; however, collection of such fees and charges shall be inapplicable to cable television companies subject to assessment as provided by N.J.S.A. 48:5A-32.

14:17-2.2 Payment of fees and charges

(a) No petition, report notice, **or other** document [or other paper] will be accepted for filing, and no request for **hard** copies of any forms, pamphlets, **or** documents [or other papers] will be granted, nor action taken by the Board or Office unless such filings and requests are accompanied by the required fees or charges, as provided by law and these rules.

(b) All checks for payment of such fees and charges shall be made payable to the order of "Treasurer, State of New Jersey" and delivered or mailed to the Secretary of the Board or [its] designee, 44 South Clinton Avenue, [3rd Floor, Suite 314,] PO Box 350, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350. The check shall include a description as to the nature of the payment.

SUBCHAPTER 3. APPEARANCE AND PRACTICE BEFORE THE BOARD OR OFFICE

14:17-3.1 Appearances

Any person appearing before or transacting business with the Board or Office in a representative capacity may be required by the Board or Office to file evidence of his or her authority to act in such capacity, **subject to the provisions at N.J.A.C. 1:1-5.1, 5.2, and 5.4.**

14:17-3.2 Ethical conduct and ex parte communications

All attorneys appearing in proceedings before the Board or Office in a representative capacity shall conform to the standards of ethical conduct required of attorneys before the courts of the State of New Jersey.

14:17-3.3 Former employees

(a) [Except with the written permission of the Board, no] **No** former member or employee of the Board of **Public Utilities** or member of the Attorney General's [staff] **Office** assigned to the Board of **Public Utilities** may appear **before the Board or engage with Board staff** in a representative capacity **by writing letters, sending emails, making phone calls, making physical appearances, or serving** as an expert witness on behalf of [other parties] **any third-party, except for the State or a third-party engaged by the Board of Public Utilities to perform work on its behalf under its control and discretion**, at any time within six months after [severing his or her association with] **separation from** the Board[, nor may he or she appear after said six-month period in any proceeding wherein he or she previously took an active part when associated with the Board] **of Public Utilities or the Office of the Attorney General.**

(b) **After the expiration of the six-month period, no former member or employee of the Board of Public Utilities or member of the Attorney General's Office assigned to the Board of Public Utilities may appear in a representative capacity, by writing letters, sending emails, making phone calls, making physical appearances, or serving as an expert witness, on behalf of any third-party, except for the State or a third-party engaged by the Board of Public Utilities to perform work on its behalf and under its control and direction, at any time in any specific**

cause, proceeding, application, or matter wherein the former employee or member had direct and substantial involvement while associated with the Board of Public Utilities.

SUBCHAPTER 4. PLEADINGS

14:17-4.1 Pleadings enumerated and defined

(a) Pleadings before the Board or Office shall be petitions, answers, and replies which for purposes of these rules are defined as follows:

1. "Petition" means the pleading filed to initiate a proceeding invoking the jurisdiction of the Board or Office;
2. "Answer" means the pleading filed by a respondent or other party against whom a petition is directed or who is affected by the filing of a petition; and
3. "Reply" means the pleading filed by the petitioner or others in response to an answer.

14:17-4.2 Number of copies

(a) Unless otherwise required or permitted by N.J.A.C. 14:1-4.2, there shall be filed with the Board for its own use, an original and [10] **one** conformed [copies] **copy** of each pleading or other [paper] **document** and amendment thereof, [and in addition, an electronic version of each filing, proceeding, or other paper and amendment thereof] **when filed by hard copy.**

(b) Where a pleading originating a proceeding is filed by a party other than a cable television company subject to the jurisdiction of the Board, one additional conformed copy shall be filed for each respondent named therein for service by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 14:17-4.5.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to electronic filings made pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:1-4.2A.

14:17-4.3 Attachments to pleadings

(a) All balance sheets, income statements, and journal entries submitted with pleadings must conform to generally accepted accounting principles and generally accepted auditing principles, or[, if adopted under State or Federal law, any applicable [uniform system] **Uniform System** of [accounts] **Accounts**.

(b) This section shall not apply to entities exempted by the Federal Communications Commission from using the Uniform System of Accounts.

14:17-4.4 Defective pleadings

Pleadings will be liberally construed with the view to effect justice. The Board or Office may disregard errors or defects in pleadings which do not affect the substantial rights of the parties. However, if the defect in a pleading prejudices a substantial right of any party the Board or Office may, on notice, strike the pleading or take such other action as it deems appropriate.

14:17-4.5 Service and notice of proceedings

(a) Unless otherwise provided for by statute or in these rules or unless otherwise ordered or permitted by the Board or Office, the following provisions shall govern:

1. A petition filed on behalf of a cable television company shall be served by such cable television company or its agent or attorney upon each respondent named in such petition;

2. A petition originating a proceeding filed by a party other than a cable television company shall be served by the Secretary of the Board upon each respondent named in such petition;
3. Every other pleading, including all answers, replies, notices, briefs and other papers, shall be served by the party filing the same (whether a cable television company or not) on all other parties of record concurrently with or prior to the filing thereof; and
4. Whenever public notice is required, the same shall be at the expense of the party directed to give such notice.

14:17-4.6 Verification

All pleadings initiating a proceeding or otherwise seeking affirmative relief shall be verified except for those matters brought upon the Board's own motion or the motion of the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey.

14:17-4.7 Changes in facts or circumstances

- (a) Whenever, subsequent to the date of a pleading, there is any significant change in respect to matter contained in such pleading, the party who filed the pleading shall promptly file an amendment showing or explaining the changed facts or circumstances.
- (b) The filing of such amendment shall be considered a new filing as of the date of its filing unless otherwise ordered or permitted by the Board or Office.

SUBCHAPTER 5. (RESERVED)

Title 14, Chapter 17, Subchapter 5. (RESERVED)

SUBCHAPTER 6. PETITIONS

14:17-6.1 Form and content of petitions

(a) All petitions shall comply with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 14:17-4 to the extent applicable; shall clearly and concisely state the facts and relief sought; shall cite by appropriate reference the statutory provisions or other authority under which the Office's action is sought; and, in addition, shall contain such information or statements as are required by the provisions of the statute and the applicable provisions of these rules, or such other rules by the Office with the approval of the Board or orders adopted by the Board pertaining to certain petitions, or as may be required by the Board or Office in a particular proceeding.

(b) Special requirements with respect to certain types of petitions are set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.6 through 6.15 and 6.18 through 6.21.

(c) Petitions directed to particular respondents shall conclude with a direction that the respondent satisfy the prayer of the petition or file and serve an answer within 20 days in accordance with these rules.

14:17-6.2 Applications to other regulatory bodies

(a) Where the relief sought in a petition also requires the approval or authorization of any other state or Federal regulatory body, the petition to the Office shall so state and include the following:

1. The current status of each application;
2. If the application to the other regulatory body or bodies has already been filed, a copy of each such application shall be attached to the petition to the Office, together with a copy of any order or certificate issued related thereto.

3. If such an application or an amendment thereof is filed with another state or Federal regulatory body subsequent to date of filing with this Board but prior to its determination, [three copies] **a copy** of such application or amendment thereof, together with [three copies] **a copy** of any order or certificate issued relating thereto, shall be filed with the Office and served upon other parties of record.

14:17-6.3 Joinder of request for relief

(a) A petitioner may join in a single petition more than one independent or alternative requests for relief, subject, however, to the payment of the statutory filing fees applicable to each of the approvals sought.

(b) The Office with the approval of the Board may, in its discretion, sever matters so joined for hearing and determination or take such other action as may be in the public interest.

14:17-6.4 Procedures of Office on filing of petition

(a) If in the opinion of the Office the petition complies substantially with these rules and appears on its face to state a matter within this Office's jurisdiction, [any] **and** necessary copies have been received and fees paid, [the Director shall file same with] the Secretary of the Board **shall file same**.

(b) Unless otherwise directed by the Board, petitions and subsequent pleadings shall be served by the parties as provided for in N.J.A.C. 14:17-4.5.

(c) If within the time allowed for answer the respondent makes an offer of satisfaction which is accepted by the petitioner, such offer and acceptance signed by the parties or their attorneys shall

be filed with the Office and if not disapproved by the Office, proceedings closed without further action.

(d) When the respondent has not satisfied the petition, the Director may schedule a hearing thereon and issue such recommendations to the Board as the facts and circumstances appear to require.

14:17-6.5 Handling informal complaint to the Office as complaint officer in lieu of petition

(a) For any customer of a cable television company operating under a system-wide franchise, or when a municipality has designated the Office as the "complaint officer" pursuant to the applicable provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq., an informal complaint may be made by letter, email [, facsimile or other writing,] **or electronic filing** in lieu of filing a petition.

(b) Matters thus presented will be taken up with the parties affected by correspondence or otherwise, in an endeavor to bring about an adjustment of the subject matter of the complaint without formal hearing or order.

(c) While no form of informal complaint is prescribed, to be considered by the complaint officer such complaint must be signed, unless electronically submitted, and must state the name and address of the complainant and the party complained of, as well as the essential facts upon which the complaint is based, including the dates of acts or omissions complained of, and the desired outcome.

(d) The complaint officer will bring the matter to the attention of the party complained of and direct the said party to submit information deemed to be pertinent as well as a statement of its position.

(e) Following a study and review of the complainant's and cable television operator's positions and supporting data and after such informal conferences as may be held, an attempt will be made to effect an amicable adjustment of the dispute.

(f) Depending upon the type of informal complaint filed, Office staff shall, within 30 days of receipt of said complaint, respond to the informal complaint in the same manner as it was received or in any other manner designed to provide appropriate notice and provide the results, if any, of the processing of the informal complaint.

(g) Informal complaints shall be without prejudice to the right of any party to file a petition pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq., or of the Board to institute a formal proceeding.

(h) While informal complaints are recommended wherever practicable as a method designed for amicable adjustment of disputes, no mandatory or prohibitory order will be issued on an informal complaint.

(i) A party desiring a decision on order of the Board must file a petition in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:17-4 and **N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.1, [through] 6.2, 6.3, and 6.4** to the extent applicable.

14:17-6.6 Petitions for **initial** certificate of approval

(a) Petitions for a certificate of approval shall conform to the provisions [of] **at N.J.A.C. 14:17-4 and N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.1, [through] 6.2, 6.3, and 6.4**, to the extent applicable. The following information shall also be supplied in the body of the petition or in attached exhibits:

1. A certified copy of the municipal consent involved including the terms and conditions relating thereto;

2. In the case of regional filing pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17(b), a copy of the affected municipality's or municipalities' resolution(s);
3. A copy of petitioner's acceptance of the ordinance;
4. A copy of the application for cable television franchise, **on the standard form supplied by the Office, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-12.2** [as amended to reflect] **and including** any changes in terms, conditions, facts or circumstances resulting from negotiations or agreements with the municipality;
5. Proof that all statutory requirements relating to the obtaining of the municipal consent have been met;
6. Reason why petitioner believes that the municipal consent is necessary and proper for the public convenience and will properly conserve the public interest; and
7. The location and address of the company's local office or agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-26(d) and N.J.A.C. 14:18-5.1.

(b) In cases where the petition involves the arbitrary refusal by a municipality to grant a municipal consent, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq., the petition shall, in addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this Section to the extent applicable, also provide proof that the municipal consent is being arbitrarily withheld.

14:17-6.7 Petition for approval of the modification or amendment of the terms or conditions of a municipal consent upon which a certificate of approval is based

(a) Petitions for the approval of the modification or amendment of the terms or conditions of a municipal consent upon which a certificate of approval is based shall conform to the provisions

[of] **at** N.J.A.C. 14:17-4 and N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.1, [through] **6.2, 6.3, and 6.4**, to the extent applicable, and shall in the body thereof or attached exhibits, also provide the following information:

1. A certified copy of the existing municipal consents including the terms and conditions related thereto;
2. A statement describing the proposed modifications or amendments to the said terms or conditions with reasons for the changes proposed;
3. Proof of service of notice to all cable television companies operating in the areas either contiguous or in the same franchise territory to that served by the petitioner; and
4. A copy of the agreement between the municipality and the petitioner stating that the changes are acceptable.

(b) For purposes of this section, proof of service of notice shall include a copy of the notice and certification of service upon the indicated party.

(c) The petitioner shall provide copies of the petition to noticed parties upon request.

14:17-6.8 Petitions for approval of the transfer of certificates of approval or system-wide franchise

(a) Petitions for approval of the transfer of certificates of approval or system-wide franchise shall conform to the requirements [of] **at** N.J.A.C. 14:17-4 and **N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.1**, [through] **6.2, 6.3, and 6.4**, to the extent applicable and shall in the body thereof, or in the attached exhibits, also provide the following information:

1. If petition is for approval of the transfer of certificates of approval, evidence by affidavit from both parties that a copy of each certificate has been provided by transferor and that transferee has received said documents;
2. If petition is for approval of the transfer of certificates of approval, evidence by affidavit from both parties that a copy of each municipal consent has been provided by transferor and that transferee has received said documents;
3. If petition is for approval of the transfer of system-wide franchise, a copy of the system-wide franchise or a copy of the order memorializing the conversion to a system-wide franchise issued by the Board;
4. A map showing current service being supplied;
5. The names of all cable television companies operating in areas contiguous to that served by transferor under the certificate of approval or system-wide franchise involved in the application under this section;
6. The current schedule of prices, rates, terms and conditions charged for the service involved;
7. The names of the officers of the transferee or the names of its owners or partners, and the extent of their interest;
8. A copy of the assignment, contract, lease or other agreement by which the transfer is proposed to be made;
9. Affidavits by the transferor and the transferee as to the existence of any judgments, tax claims, of Federal, State, municipal governments or liens against the transferor or property, or equipment involved in, or associated with the proposed transfer;

10. A statement of the financial condition of the transferee and of its technical qualifications to operate and maintain the cable television operation and to provide safe, adequate and proper service;

11. If petition is for transfer of certificates of approval, evidence by affidavit from the existing cable television operator that all commitments contained in the current certificate of approval(s), municipal consent ordinance(s) and application(s) for municipal consent have been completed. If the commitments have not been met, the cable television operator must provide the status of the project in question;

12. If petition is for transfer of a system-wide franchise, evidence that all commitments contained in the current system-wide franchise have been completed. If the commitments have not been met, the cable television operator must provide the status of the project in question; and

13. Proof of service of notice of the proposed transfer to subscribers by way of bill insert or by publication in at least one newspaper circulated in the cable television company's service area.

(b) Proof of service of notice of the proposed transfer to all the electric and telephone utilities serving the area, and upon all cable television companies referred to in (a)[4]5 above shall be included with the petition.

(c) Proof of service of notice of the proposed transfer to the clerk of each municipality being served by the cable television company shall be included with the petition.

(d) Proof of service of notice of the proposed transfer to all the other owners or managers of the public rights-of-way shall be included with the petition.

(e) For purposes of this section, proof of service of notice shall include a copy of the notice and certification of service upon the indicated party.

14:17-6.9 Petitions for renewal of certificate of approval

(a) Petitions for renewal of a certificate of approval shall conform to the provisions [of] **at N.J.A.C. 14:17-4 and N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.1, [through] 6.2, 6.3, and 6.4**, to the extent applicable, and shall in the body thereof, or in attached exhibits, also provide the following information:

1. A copy of the original municipal consent or evidence of the original municipal consent; [and] a copy of the renewal municipal consent; **and a copy of the current certificate of approval.**
2. In cases where the municipality has not acted on an application for renewal, the petitioner shall include a statement to that effect together with proof that application has been made;
3. Proof that petitioner has been operating its cable television system in conformance with the rules, regulations and orders of the Office and the Board, and is able to continue to do so;
4. Petitioner's acceptance of the ordinance;
5. A copy of the application for cable television franchise, as amended to reflect any changes in facts, terms, conditions or circumstances resulting from negotiations or agreements with the municipality; and
6. The location and address of the company's local office or agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-26(d) and N.J.A.C. 14:18-5.1.

(b) The petition shall also contain the information as required by the provisions [of] **at** N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.6, Petitions for certificate of approval, and shall indicate that the petitioner has complied with N.J.A.C. 14:18-13, Renewals.

14:17-6.10 Petitions for the approval of the sale or lease of property

(a) Petitions for the approval of the sale, conveyance, or lease of real or personal property, or the granting of an easement, or like interest therein as required by law shall conform to the provisions [of] **at** N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq., [and] N.J.A.C. 14:17-4, and **N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.1, [through] 6.2, 6.3, and 6.4**, to the extent applicable, and shall in the body thereof, or in attached exhibits, also provide the following information:

1. [A] **An original and one copy of a** separate sheet or sheets designated Schedule "A" containing a description of the property. [Copies filed must be in accordance with the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-1.6, regarding the filing of petitions.]

i. For real property, show the location by municipality and county, a metes and bounds or other adequate description of the property and rights of any, reserved by the cable television company.

ii. For personal property, include sufficient information to identify the property adequately;

2. The name of transferee or lessee, the consideration or rental and method of payment thereof, and rights reserved by the transferor or lessor;

3. A copy of the written agreement, if any. If there is no written agreement, it shall be so stated;

4. A certified copy of the resolution of the Board of Directors or other authority authorizing the transfer or lease;
5. The purpose for which property was originally acquired, the date of acquisition, the use made of the property, the date when and circumstances under which it ceased to be useful for cable television purposes, the present use, the possible prospective use, if any, and the identity of the official or officials who determined that the property is not now nor prospectively required or useful for cable television purposes;
6. The basis of the price or rental: Assessed valuation, appraisal, comparable sales, or other basis; whether it is the best price or rental obtainable; an appraisal, if any, shall be attached as an exhibit;
7. Whether the proposed consideration or rental represents the fair market value of the property to be conveyed or leased;
8. The steps taken to put this property on the market and accomplish its sale or lease. If it was advertised, how it was advertised. If bids were solicited, the names of bidders and the consideration or rental offered shall be included;
9. Whether there is any relationship between the parties other than that of transferor and transferee, or lessor and lessee. If so, explain the relationship;
10. The actual cost at date of acquisition, and the cost and nature of any improvements;
11. The amount at which the property is now carried on the cable television company's books;

12. Copies of proposed journal entries to record the transaction when the consideration is more than \$ 20,000;

13. If property is income producing, include details of what the petitioner pays such as carrying charges, taxes, and assessed valuation;

14. If the property is encumbered by any mortgage, describe the mortgage, state the amount thereof and the time required to obtain a release; and

15. When the property to be sold or leased has a net book cost or fair market value of more than \$ 500,000, the petitioner must attach to the petition copies of the advertisement required by (b) below, and proof of publication.

(b) Where the Board's approval of sale or lease is required by law and the property has a net book cost or fair market value of more than \$ 500,000 the property shall be advertised for sale or lease at least twice, one week apart, in a daily newspaper published or circulated in the county in which the property is located, within 90 days immediately prior to the filing of the petition for the approval of the sale or lease, except that advertising shall not be required for sale or lease of property for cable television purposes to another cable television company or other person or company subject to any jurisdiction of this Office or Board, and the advertisement shall contain the following:

1. A description of the property to be sold or leased and improvements thereon. In the case of land, this shall include the street address, if any, and a description sufficient to identify the location of the property and its approximate size, which may be a description by metes and bounds or lot and block numbers;

2. The place where the property is located or may be inspected, together with the street address, if any;

3. Conditions of the sale or lease, if any, together with a provision that the cable television company may reject any or all bids;

4. A statement that the sale or lease is subject to the approval of the Office of Cable Television, Board of Public Utilities;

5. A statement of the place and final date of submitting sealed bids, which shall not be less than 10 days after publication of the second advertisement together with a statement of the time and place of the opening of said bids, which shall not be more than five days following the final date submitting bids, at a place in New Jersey; and

6. A sealed bid, in accordance with the requirements of (b)5 above, must be submitted by a prospective purchaser or lessee. However, an offer or agreement to purchase or lease in writing received by the cable television company or executed before the first date of advertising, and still in effect at such date, shall be considered as if it were a sealed bid, provided such offer or agreement in writing meets all other conditions of sale or lease, if any, included within the advertising.

(c) In addition to any other transactions not requiring approval or which on their merits may be deemed to be in the ordinary course of business, any lease, grant or permission by a cable television company to occupy or use its real property or any interest therein, which is terminable at the option of the cable television company upon notice not to exceed 90 days, and any release, by quitclaim deed or otherwise by any cable television company of any lease, easement or permission to occupy

or use real property, shall be deemed to be in the ordinary course of its business and neither notice to the Office, nor petition for its approval, shall be required with respect thereto.

(d) In addition to any other transactions that, on their merits, may be deemed to be in the ordinary course of business, the sale, lease, encumbrance, or other disposition by any cable television company of such of its property or an interest therein as is hereinafter set forth, may be consummated without petition to the Office for approval, provided the cable television company shall have given written notice thereof to the Office, to be received not less than 30 days prior to the effective date of the proposed sale, lease, encumbrance, or other disposition of such property:

1. The sale of personal property having a net book cost and sale price not in excess of \$ 100,000 and which is no longer used by or useful to the cable television company;
2. Except as provided in this section, the lease or permission to use or occupy real property or any interest therein having a net book cost not in excess of \$ 500,000 and a net rental not in excess of \$ 25,000 per annum;
3. The sale or release of real property, or any interest therein, not used by or useful to the cable television company and having a net book cost and sale price not in excess of \$ 500,000.

(e) On expiration of the notice period and on payment of the required fee, the Secretary will certify on a true copy of the notice to be furnished to the Board, that such sale, lease, or release is deemed by the Board to be in the ordinary course of business and within the statutory proviso. Such notice shall contain, to the extent applicable, the following:

1. The name of transferee or lessee, the consideration or rental and method of payment thereof, and rights, if any, reserved by the transferor or lessor;
2. A copy of the agreement or lease and a map of the real property;
3. A statement that the proposed consideration or rental represents the fair market value of the property to be conveyed, or the fair rental value of the property to be leased, giving the basis for the conclusion reached;
4. A statement of any relationship between the parties other than transferor and transferee, or lessor and lessee, or a statement that there is no such other relationship, as the case may be;
5. The amount at which the property is carried on the cable television company's books;
6. A statement as to whether or not the property is income producing and if so, details as to whether the petitioner pays all carrying charges, including taxes. In addition, such statement shall include the assessed valuation of the property;
7. A statement, in the case of proposed sale, that the property is not used by or useful to the cable television company, and in the case of a proposed lease, grant or permission, that the transaction will not compromise the ability of the cable television company to render service;
8. A verification by a properly authorized officer, partner or proprietor of the statements contained in the notice;
9. A blank space of three inches shall be provided at the bottom of the first page of the notice for the Board's certification.

(f) The Board or Office may, within the aforesaid 30-day notice period, or at any time prior to the actual consummation of the transaction, suspend the provisions of (d) above and require the filing of a petition for the approval of the sale, lease, encumbrance or other disposition.

14:17-6.11 [(Reserved)] Petitions for an initial or renewal system wide franchise

a) Petitions for an initial or renewal system wide franchise shall conform to the provisions at N.J.A.C. 14:17-4 and N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.1, 6.2, 6.3, and 6.4, to the extent applicable. The following information shall also be supplied in the body of the petition or in attached exhibits:

- 1. A copy of the application for an initial or renewal system wide franchise filed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-14.1 or 14:18-14.18, as applicable, on a standard form supplied by the Office, with information as required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-14.2;**
- 2. A list of all municipalities served under the system wide franchise;**
- 3. Evidence of any existing or proposed agreement(s) between the company and the individual municipality or municipalities proposed to be served under an initial application, demonstrating the company's authority to utilize the public rights-of-way of the municipality for the placement of equipment or facilities to construct, upgrade, operate or maintain a cable television or telecommunications system, including but not limited to any municipal consent, resolution or rights-or-way agreement issued by the municipality;**
- 4. The location and address of the company's local office(s) or agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-26(d) and N.J.A.C. 14:18-5.1;**

5. A copy of any and all notices or correspondence filed by the cable television operator initiating renewal proceedings, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-14.16 and 14.17;

6. A copy of the most recent system wide franchise approval issued by the Board.

14:17-6.12 Petitions for reconsideration of assessment

(a) Petitions for reconsideration of the assessment levied in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq., where applicable, shall conform to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 14:17-4, and N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.1, [through] **6.2, 6.3, and 6.4**, to the extent applicable, and shall in the body thereof, or the exhibits attached thereto, provide the following information:

1. A certified copy of a statement showing gross operating revenues derived from intrastate operations during the preceding calendar year;

2. Reasons why the petitioner feels the assessment is excessive, erroneous, unlawful or invalid.

14:17-6.13 Petitions for authority to issue stocks, bonds, notes, other evidence of indebtedness, or to execute mortgages

(a) Petitions for authority to issue any stocks, bonds, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness, payable in more than one year from the date thereof, and to execute mortgages shall conform to the provisions [of] **at** N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq., [and] N.J.A.C. 14:17-4, and **N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.1**, [through] **6.2, 6.3, and 6.4**, to the extent applicable, and shall in the body thereof, or in attached exhibits, provide the following information:

1. A statement of the amount and terms of the proposed issue including the nature of the security therefor, if any; the purposes for which the proceeds are to be used; and the nature of all rights and limitations applicable to the security;
2. Where one of the purposes is the acquisition of property, a general description of the property, the name of the transferor, and a copy of the contract, if any, for such acquisition. In the case of property to be acquired for right-of-way purposes, a general description of the proposed route and a map or plot plan will be sufficient.
3. Where one of the purposes is the construction, completion, extension or improvement of facilities, a general description of the work proposed to be done, and an estimate of the cost thereof in reasonable detail. Where one of the purposes is the improvement or maintenance of service, there shall be included a description of the existing service as well as of the improvements or betterments proposed;
4. Where one of the purposes is the refunding of securities, a description of the securities and obligations to be refunded, including the kind, amount, date of issue and date of maturity, together with the terms of refunding and all other material facts affecting the same must be set out;
5. Where one of the purposes is the issuance of capital stock based upon the investment of earnings in plant, which might have been distributed in dividends a complete and reasonably detailed enumeration of petitioner's property, priced at original cost, estimated if not known. The petitioner shall produce at the hearing, evidence in support of such enumeration and pricing;

6. Where one of the purposes is to reimburse the treasury for expenditures not [theretofore] **previously** capitalized by the issuance of securities, the petitioner shall also show the exact period and amount for which reimbursement is desired, comparative financial statements [which] **that** shall include, at a minimum, balance sheets and utility plant by accounts as at the beginning and end of the period, as well as changes in the period (in the case of cable television plant, additions and retirements shall be stated separately for each year); a statement indicating the source and application of funds during the period; a statement indicating the manner in which **the** petitioner proposes to use the proceeds from the security issue; and the necessity and reasonableness of the proposed transaction;

7. Where one of the purposes is for the issuance of common capital stock in connection with the organization of a new corporation to operate as a cable television company, the petition must contain the following:

- i. A copy of the certificate of incorporation;
- ii. The names and addresses of the elected or proposed officers, directors, and stockholders of the company and the number of shares of capital stock to be held by each;
- iii. The required number of stockholders and directors and the state in which they reside pursuant to the statute under which the corporation will be organized;
- iv. A corporate resolution or proposed resolution of directors of the cable television company authorizing the issuance of the stock;

v. A copy of a pro forma balance sheet of the new corporation and a copy of a pro forma income statement of estimated operating results anticipated for the first two years of its proposed operations, unless a different period is specified by the Office;

vi. The name of the municipality and the street and number therein:

(1) In which the principal office in this State is to be located and the name of the agent in charge of such principal office upon whom process against the corporation may be served;

(2) In which the principal business office is to be located;

(3) At which the records, books, accounts, documents and other writings referred to in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq., to be kept and the name, place of residence within this State and place of business of the agent who shall have custody of said corporate records and upon whom process for the production of the same before the Board or Office may be served. (The books of account must be kept in conformity with the appropriate Uniform System of Accounts prescribed by the Office.) Books and records must be kept within this State unless authority to do otherwise is obtained from the Board.

vii. A detailed list of organization expenditures;

viii. A copy of a pro forma balance sheet giving effect to the issuance of the proposed securities;

ix. A copy of a pro forma income statement giving effect to the issuance of the proposed securities;

x. The effective rate of interest or of the cost of money to the petitioner, and the reasonableness thereof, if authority is requested to issue stocks, bonds, notes or other evidence of indebtedness by means of private placement and not a public offering, and the financial sources that the petitioner has contacted in this connection. Petitioner should submit information as to the computation of the effective rate of interest or of the cost of money as distinguished from the nominal rates which may be indicated.

8. Where one of the purposes is the issuance of bonds to be secured by an existing mortgage a statement showing the amount and use made of the proceeds of the bonds, if any, already issued under such mortgage;

9. Information relating to the current financial condition of the petitioner setting forth:

i. As to each class of capital stock of the petitioner, the amount authorized and the amount issued and outstanding;

ii. As to each class of preferred stock of the petitioner, a summary statement of the terms of preference thereof;

iii. As to each issue or series of long-term indebtedness of the petitioner, the principal amount authorized to be issued, date of issue, date of maturity, rate of interest and principal amount outstanding, and as to each such issue secured by a mortgage upon any property of the petitioner, the date of said mortgage, name of trustee, principal amount authorized to be secured, and a brief description of the mortgaged property;

iv. Other indebtedness of all kinds, giving same by classes and describing security, if any;

v. Amount of interest charged to income during previous fiscal year upon each kind of indebtedness and rate thereof, and, if different rates were charged, amount charged at each rate;

vi. The amount of dividends paid upon each class of stock during the previous calendar year and rate thereof;

vii. A detailed income statement for the previous calendar year and balance sheet showing conditions at the close of that year.

10. A statement whether any franchise or right is proposed to be capitalized directly or indirectly. In case it is proposed to capitalize any franchise, a copy of such franchise and a statement, together with an affidavit showing the amount actually paid for said franchise shall be attached to the petition;

11. Where any contract, agreement or arrangement, verbal or written has been to sell the securities proposed to be issued, a description of such contract, agreement or arrangement and, if in writing, a copy thereof;

12. If no contract, agreement, or arrangement has been made for the sale or other disposition of the securities proposed to be issued, the proposed method of sale or other disposition must be set forth together with an affidavit of a competent person showing the amount which can probably be realized from the sale and disposition thereof, and the reasons for the opinion of the affiant;

13. Petitions filed under this rule shall contain a certified copy of the resolution of the Board of Directors or other authority authorizing the proposed issuance of securities and shall be

verified. The verification shall include a statement that it is the intention of the petitioner in good faith to use the proceeds of the securities proposed to be issued for the purposes set forth in the petition; and

14. Information which under this rule is required to be set forth in a petition or any exhibit attached thereto and which is contained in any report, document, pleading or other instrument previously filed with the Office pursuant to any requirement of any statute or any rule of the Office, may be incorporated in such petition or exhibit by reference to the official filing thereof with the Office provided that said information is still correct in all respects.

14:17-6.14 Petitions for authority to transfer capital stock

(a) Petitions for authority to transfer upon the books and records of any cable television company, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq., where applicable, any share or shares of its capital stock, shall conform to the provisions [of] **at** N.J.A.C. 14:17-4 and N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.1, [through] **6.2, 6.3, and 6.4**, to the extent applicable, and shall in the body thereof, or in attached exhibits, also provide the following information:

1. The name and address of the proposed transferor and transferee;
2. A description of the proposed transferee including information as to whether the proposed transferee is a cable television company, a holding company either separately or by affiliation in a cable television holding company system, or a person or other domestic or foreign corporation;

3. A description of the capital stock proposed to be transferred including the class of shares, number of shares and the par or stated value thereof;

4. The per cent in interest of the outstanding voting capital stock of the cable television company which the proposed transfer, either by itself or in connection with other previous sales or transfers, will vest in the transferee;

5. The reason for the proposed transfer;

6. Details and explanation of any changes expected to be made, if petition is approved, in:

i. Board of Directors;

ii. Officers and active managers;

iii. Company policies with respect to its operations, financing, accounting, capitalization, rates, depreciation, maintenance, services and other matters affecting the public interest.

7. The qualifications and the business or technical experience of the proposed officers, directors and stockholders, or other principal management and operating personnel with particular respect to their ability to carry out the cable television company's obligation to render safe, adequate, efficient and proper service.

8. Proof of service of notice of the proposed transfer to the municipalities being served by the cable television company.

(b) For purposes of this section, proof of service of notice shall include a copy of the notice and certification of service upon the indicated party.

14:17-6.15 Petitions for permission to lend money or property

(a) Petitions for permission to lend money or property pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq., shall conform to N.J.A.C. 14:17-4[,] and N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.1, [through] **6.2, 6.3, and 6.4**, to the extent applicable, and shall in the body thereof, or in exhibits thereto, provide the following additional information:

1. Name, address, per cent of stock ownership and affiliation with petitioner or other cable television company of lender;
2. Amount of money or description of property proposed to be lent;
3. A copy of the proposed agreement including the terms and conditions related thereto;
4. Reasons for the proposed loan;
5. Proof that the loan will not impair the petitioner's ability to provide safe, adequate, efficient, economical and proper service.

14:17-6.16 **Reserved** [Filings for unregulated charges or which do not propose changes in regulated charges to customers

(a) Filings for the purpose of making effective initial schedules of all prices, rates, terms, and conditions, or revisions, changes, or alterations of existing schedules of all prices, rates, terms, and conditions and where a rate application form as promulgated by the FCC pursuant to 47 CFR 76.900 et seq., is not being filed shall conform to the provisions [of] **at** N.J.A.C. 14:17-4, to the extent applicable, and shall in the body thereof, or in attached exhibits, also provide the following information:

1. An electronic or paper copy of the proposed schedule of all prices, rates, terms, and conditions. Changes, revisions, or alterations thereof, together with an explanation of the

manner in which the schedule of all prices, rates, terms, and conditions or change differs from the existing or a prior schedule of all prices, rates, terms, and conditions may be made by an electronic or paper filing of the individual sheet or sheets reflecting the revised changes to the current schedule of prices, rates, terms, and conditions;

2. A statement of the reasons why the said schedule of all prices, rates, terms and conditions or change is proposed to be filed;

3. A statement of notices given, if any, together with a copy of the text of each of said notices; and

4. A statement as to the date on which it is proposed to make the schedule of all prices, rates, terms, and conditions or change effective, which date shall not be earlier than 30 days after the filing, unless otherwise permitted by the Office with the approval of the Board, except where simple notice is sufficient under N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.16.

(b) Review of petitions and schedule of all prices, rates, terms and conditions under this section shall conform and comply with the regulations and procedures established by the Federal Communications Commission for the regulation of cable television rates.

(c) Notice shall be provided in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.16.]

14:17-6.17 **Reserved** [Rate application filings, which propose changes in regulated charges

(a) Rate application filings for the purpose of making effective revisions, changes or alterations of existing schedules of all prices, rates, charges and services, which propose to change any regulated rate, rental or charge or to alter any classification, practice, rule or regulation shall do so by filing the applicable rate forms promulgated by the FCC and shall in the body thereof, or in attached

exhibits, contain all applicable information and supporting data prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting and auditing principles or the applicable FCC regulations and:

1. A copy of the draft newspaper notice of the rate changes to be published in the service area requesting subscriber comment over a 30-day period beginning the date of publication;
2. A separate cover letter for each different application indicating which service territory or system is to be affected by the cable television company's rate application. A copy of the letter should accompany each copy of the application submitted; and
3. A statement as to the date on which it is proposed to make the schedule of all prices, rates, charges and services or change effective, which date shall not be earlier than 30 days after the filing unless otherwise permitted by the Office with the approval of the Board.

(b) Each cable television company that makes a filing under (a) above shall, at the same time, unless otherwise ordered or permitted by the Board, give notice thereof as follows:

1. Serve a notice of this filing, which includes a statement of the municipality's procedural rights under N.J.S.A. 48:5A-18(b) and N.J.A.C. 1:1-12.1, to elect to intervene as a party presenting evidence or to participate by written and/or oral statements or briefs under N.J.A.C. 1:1-12.6, and a copy of the proposed schedule of all prices, rates, terms and conditions or a copy of the petition or a statement of the effect of the proposed filing upon the municipal clerk in each of the municipalities in which there is rendered cable television service, the regulated charge for which is proposed to be changed;
2. Serve a notice of the filing and two copies of the schedule of all prices, rates, terms and conditions or rate application filing on the Department of Law and Public Safety, 124

Halsey Street, PO Box 45029, Newark, New Jersey 07102 and on the Director, Division of Rate Counsel, Department of the Treasury, 140 East Front Street 4th Floor, P.O. Box 003, Trenton, New Jersey 08625; and

3. Serve on all current subscribers who are billed on a recurring basis and who will be affected by said filing, a notice of filing and a statement of its effect on subscribers of various classes. Such notice may be by bill insert or by publication in newspapers published and circulated in the cable television company's service area.

(c) Each cable television company that makes a filing under (a) above shall, after being advised by the Office of the time and place fixed for hearing, if any, and unless otherwise ordered or permitted by the Board or Office, serve notice at least 20 days prior to such time on those persons specified in (b) 1 and (b)2 above and shall give such notice to those persons designated in N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.17(b)3 as current subscribers billed on a recurring basis, by bill insert or by publication 20 days prior to the date set for hearing, in newspapers published and circulated in the cable television company's service area.

(d) The notices provided for in (b) and (c) above may be given simultaneously.

(e) Where notice is prescribed under this Section it shall be at the cost and expense of the party obligated to give or serve the notice.

(f) Proof of service and/or notice required by this rule shall be filed with the Office at least five days before the date set for hearing.

(g) An opportunity for public comment shall be afforded affected subscribers. In the discretion of the presiding hearer, public comment may take the form of a hearing in the service territory or

other reasonably convenient location and/or the submittal of written comments, if doing so is in the interest of prompt disposition and judicial economy.

1. The presiding officer shall also have the discretion to combine any public comment hearings to encompass more than one service territory served by a single cable operator or similar rate requests filed by more than one cable operator, if doing so is in the interest of prompt disposition and judicial economy.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of at N.J.A.C. 1:1-14.10(k)6 and (1), interlocutory appeals from a hearer's decision on public comment pursuant to this subsection shall be made to the Board in accordance with the terms of N.J.A.C. 1:1-14.10.

(h) Review of rate application filings and schedules of all prices, rates, terms and conditions under this section shall conform and comply with the regulations and procedures established by the Federal Communications Commission for the regulation of cable television rates.

(i) If there are changes to the rates as a result of the Board's review, a copy of the final schedule of all prices, rates, terms and conditions reflecting the actual rates to be charged shall be filed no later than 30 days prior to the effective date of the rate change.]

14:17-6.18 Petitions for approval of a merger or consolidation

(a) Petitions for approval of a merger or consolidation of one cable television company of New Jersey with that of another cable television company, shall conform to the provisions [of] at N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq., and N.J.A.C. 14:17-4, **N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.1**, [through] **6.2, 6.3**, 6.4, and 6.13, to the extent applicable, and shall contain in the petition, or as attached exhibits, the following information:

1. A copy of the agreement of merger or consolidation;
2. Copies of corporate resolutions of the stockholders of each of the corporations authorizing the transaction;
3. Copies of recent balance sheets of each company and a pro forma balance sheet of the continuing company;
4. Copies of recent income statements of the operations of each of the companies involved and a pro forma income statement of the continuing corporation, in sufficient detail;
5. Copies of certificates of incorporation of each corporation to be merged and amendments thereto, if not heretofore filed with the Office;
6. The total number of shares of each of the various classes of capital stock proposed to be issued, if any, by the surviving corporation, the par or stated value per share, and the total amount of new capital stock to be issued;
7. The percentage, and the manner in which, if any, the presently outstanding capital stock of the corporations involved, will be exchanged for the new stock of the surviving corporation;
8. Whether any franchise cost is proposed to be capitalized on the books of the surviving corporation. If so, explain the reasons therefor, and in what manner and over what period the items are proposed to be amortized;
9. The names and addresses of the new officers, directors and principal stockholders and the number of shares to be held by each in the surviving corporation;

10. The various benefits to the public and the surviving corporation which will be realized as the result of the merger;

11. Proposed changes, if any, by the surviving corporation, in company policies with respect to finances, operations, accounting, rates, depreciation, operating schedules, maintenance and management, affecting the public interest;

12. Proof of service of notice of the proposed merger to the public, the municipalities being served by the companies to be merged, and the public utilities serving in the area, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:17-4.5;

13. Proof of compliance with rules, regulations and statutes requiring approval from other State and Federal regulatory agencies having jurisdiction in the matter; and

14. A statement of the fees and expenses to be incurred in connection with the merger, and the accounting disposition to be made thereof, on the books of the surviving corporation.

14:17-6.19 Petitions for permission to keep books and records outside the State of New Jersey

(a) Petitions for authority to keep books, records, accounts, documents and other writings outside the State of New Jersey, filed with the Board, as required under N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq., where applicable, shall conform to the provisions [of] **at** N.J.A.C. 14:17-4 and N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.1, [through] **6.2, 6.3, and** 6.4, to the extent applicable, and shall in the body thereof, or in attached exhibits, also provide the following information:

1. Complete description of the specific books, records, accounts, documents and other writings proposed to be kept outside the State of New Jersey;

2. The exact location where the books and records will be kept;

3. If all books and records will not be kept outside the State, what remaining records will be kept at the New Jersey location;
4. The reason for proposing to keep its books and records at a location outside the State;
5. The availability of adequate required space, facilities and experienced personnel at the new location;
6. The cost to the petitioner of maintaining the books and records at the new location as compared with that of maintaining the records at the New Jersey location;
7. The extent of the financial advantage to the subscribers and other benefits to the cable television company which will result from keeping the books and records outside the State;
8. Whether the books and records which will be kept at the location outside the State will be, on notice in writing by the Office or Board, produced at such time and place within this State as the Board or Office may designate;
9. Whether the petitioner will pay to the Office any reasonable expenses or charges incurred by the Office for any investigation or examination, if the Board grants said permission;
10. The location at which the petitioner will continue to maintain an office or agent within the State of New Jersey for the convenience of its customers to pay bills, receive, investigate and resolve complaints and conduct other business with the cable television company;
11. The name, [and] address, **telephone number and email address** of the petitioner's statutory agent.

14:17-6.20 Petitions by municipalities for permission to charge franchise fee above that prescribed in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.

(a) Petitions by municipalities for permission to charge a franchise fee above that prescribed in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq., shall be filed in one of two forms:

1. A municipal consent, included by a cable television company in its petition for Certificate of Approval, will be considered a petition for permission to charge a franchise fee in excess of that prescribed in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.; or
2. A petition in conformity with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 14:17-4 and N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.1, [through] **6.2, 6.3, and 6.4**, may be filed separately by a municipality.
3. Additionally, a municipality shall be required to provide the following information:
 - i. Proof that the expenses to the municipality with respect to the regulation or supervision caused by the existence and operation of the cable television company is warranted;
 - ii. Proof that the municipality has given notice of its filing to the affected cable television company.

14:17-6.21 Petition to set aside refusal pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17(e)

(a) Petition for an order setting aside municipal or county refusal for zoning variance, or other act or necessary authorization pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17(e), shall conform to N.J.A.C. 14:17-4 and N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.1, [through] **6.2, 6.3, and 6.4** to the extent applicable, and shall include, but not be limited to the following:

1. A map or site plan for the proposed facility showing the location of any other potential alternative sites or existing CATV facilities in relation to the one in question;
 2. A listing of alternative sites, if any, investigated or considered;
 3. A copy of the decision or order below denying the requested approval;
 4. Proof of concurrent service and a copy of the petition upon each of the following:
 - i. The municipal and, where applicable, the county governing body;
 - ii. The agency, authority, board or other entity which denied the requested approval;
 - iii. Any adjoining property owners within 200 feet of the property for which approval is sought.
- (b) The petition pursuant to this section must be filed with the Office **and the Secretary of the Board** within 60 days of written notice of the denial to the petitioner.
- (c) The Board or administrative law judge shall hold a hearing on the matter [in the community affected].

14:17-6.22 Private aggregators

- (a) A private aggregator pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-64 (P.L. 2003, c.38), must be registered with the office prior to entering into any contract with two or more municipalities for the purpose of facilitating the joint action of those municipalities in granting municipal consent for the provision of cable television service.

(b) To be considered registered, a private aggregator must submit a completed version of the OCTV's private aggregator registration form, thereby providing the required information including name, address, telephone number, business or organization background, and business or organization profile.

(c) A private aggregator must provide a confirmation of no change or an update of the required information to the office on or before March 15 of each calendar year.

SUBCHAPTER 7. ANSWERS AND REPLIES

14:17-7.1 Form and content

(a) Any party against whom a petition is directed and who desires to contest the same or make any representation to the Office in connection therewith shall file an answer in writing thereto with the [Office] **Secretary of the Board**.

(b) The answer shall be so drawn as to apprise the parties and the [Office] **Board** fully and completely of the nature of the defense and shall admit or deny specifically and in detail all material allegations of the petition.

(c) Matters alleged by way of affirmative defense shall be separately stated and numbered.

[(d) Answers shall not be required in any rate proceeding instituted by a cable television company.]

14:17-7.2 Time for filing

(a) Unless otherwise provided in these rules or ordered by the Office with the approval of the Board, an answer, if made, must be filed within 20 days after the service of the pleading against

which it is directed. A party desiring to reply to an answer shall file the same with the Board within 10 days after service of the answer.

(b) Whenever the Office or the Board believes the public interest requires expedited procedure, it may shorten the time for any answer or reply.

(c) Upon motion on notice to all parties to the proceeding, the Office with the approval of the Board may, in its discretion, extend or shorten the time to file an answer or reply.

SUBCHAPTER 8. CONFERENCES AND SETTLEMENTS

14:17-8.1 Purposes

(a) The purpose of this subchapter is to foster early settlement of cases pending before the Board or Office prior to the case being transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law and to provide a vehicle for the parties to file pre-transmittal motions with the Board for retention and disposition of certain issues. Pre-transmittal settlement conferences of parties or their attorneys may be held to provide opportunity for a settlement, subject to approval of the Board, of a proceeding or any of the issues therein, and for the submission and consideration of facts, argument, offers of settlement or proposals of adjustments, as time, the nature of the proceeding and the public interest may permit.

(b) Pre-transmittal conferences of parties or their attorneys may be held to expedite the disposition of any hearing. At such conferences there may be considered, in addition to the matters set forth in (a) above, the following:

1. Identification and simplification of the issues;

2. Admissions or stipulations of facts;
3. Identification of those matters or issues which should either be retained for disposition by the Board or be transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law; and
4. Such other matters as may be properly dealt with to aid in expediting the proceeding.

14:17-8.2 Initiation of conferences

- (a) The Board, Office or a designated officer, with or without motion, may direct that a conference be held at any stage prior to transmittal to the Office of Administrative Law or at any time when the Board certifies a case unto itself pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14F-8(b).
- (b) On motion of a party, the Board or Office-designated officer may direct the parties or their attorneys to appear for a conference to consider the matters set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:17-8.1(b).

14:17-8.3 Stipulation of conference results

- (a) Upon conclusion of the pre-transmittal conference, the parties or their attorneys shall reduce the results thereof to the form of a written stipulation reciting the matters agreed upon, and **an original and one copy** [three copies] thereof shall be filed with the Board **pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:17-4** within 10 days of the date of the conference. If no stipulations are reached, the matter shall be immediately transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law.

(b) Such stipulations shall be signed by the parties or their attorneys, may be received in evidence as part of the record and when so received shall be binding on the parties with respect to the matters therein stipulated.

(c) Such stipulations are subject to review by the Board at a regularly scheduled agenda meeting.

14:17-8.4 Authority of Board or Office-designated officers

(a) Any Board or Office-designated officer shall have the authority to conduct and preside over pre-transmittal conferences in the interest of fostering resolution of issues.

(b) When appropriate, a Board or Office-designated officer may submit a pre-transmittal order which shall be reviewed by the Board at an agenda meeting and, if acceptable, shall be adopted as its own order.

14:17-8.5 Approval of settlements

A settlement includes any agreement between the parties that resolves disputed matters and may end all or part of the case. No settlement shall be deemed approved by the Board, unless acted on in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq. This section shall not apply to withdrawn petitions or informal complaints.

SUBCHAPTER 9. CONTESTED CASE HEARINGS

14:17-9.1 Contested case procedures

The hearing in any matter which is determined by the Board to be a contested case shall be conducted pursuant to the procedures in the Administrative Procedures Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1

and 52:14F-1, the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1, and the Board of Public Utilities Rules of Special Applicability, N.J.A.C. 1:14.

14:17-9.2 Argument on exceptions

After receipt of the initial decision, the exceptions and answers thereto, if any, will be disposed of by the Board based on the exceptions, answers and briefs filed unless the Board, in its discretion, requires or permits oral argument, in which case the Board will schedule the matter for argument before it.

14:17-9.3 Review of initial decision by the Board on its own motion

The Board may institute on its own motion a review of any aspect of the initial decision and it may call for oral argument, the filing of briefs, or both, or the taking of additional testimony.

14:17-9.4 Method of reopening

(a) At any time after the conclusion of a hearing in a proceeding or adjournment thereof sine die, but before the entering and issuance by the Board of its final decision or order, any party to the proceeding may file with the Board a motion to reopen the hearing for the purpose of taking additional evidence. Such motion shall set forth clearly the reasons for reopening of the hearing, including any material changes of fact or of law alleged to have occurred since the last hearing.

(b) If, after the hearing in a proceeding, the Board shall have reason to believe that conditions of fact or of law have so changed as to require, or that the public interest requires, the reopening of such hearing, the Board will issue an order for the reopening of same.

14:17-9.5 Motions to reopen

(a) After issuance of the final decision, a party may file for the reopening of the proceeding. Upon filing by any party of a motion for the reopening of a proceeding, appropriate notice thereof shall be given forthwith by the moving party to all other parties, or their attorneys of record, by service of a copy of the motion for reopening.

(b) Within 10 days following the service of a motion to reopen, any party to the proceeding may serve upon the moving party and file with the Board an answer thereto, and in default thereof shall be deemed to have waived any objection to the granting of such motion.

(c) As soon as practicable after the filing of answers to a motion to reopen or default thereof, as the case may be, the Board will grant or deny such motion. The action by the Board may be conditioned on reasonable terms.

14:17-9.6 Rehearing, reargument or reconsideration

(a) A motion for rehearing, reargument or reconsideration of a proceeding may be filed by any party within 15 days after the issuance of any final decision or order by the Board.

1. Such motion shall state in separately numbered paragraphs the alleged errors of law or fact relied upon and shall specify whether reconsideration, reargument, rehearing or further hearing is requested and whether the ultimate relief sought is reversal, modification, vacation or suspension of the action taken by the Board or other relief.

2. Where opportunity is also sought to introduce additional evidence, the evidence to be adduced shall be stated briefly together with reasons for failure to previously adduce said evidence.

(b) The Board at any time may order a rehearing, reargument or reconsideration on its own motion and extend, revoke or modify any decision or order made by it.

14:17-9.7 Motions and answers on rehearing, **reopening, or reconsideration**

(a) A copy of the motion shall be served by the moving party upon all other parties or their attorneys of record, forthwith upon the filing hereunder. The moving party shall also give such notice, as the Board may direct, of the filing of the motion to all other persons to whom notice of the original hearing had been given.

(b) Any answer to the motion shall be filed within 10 days following the service of the motion. Failure to file an answer shall be deemed to be a waiver of any objection to the granting of the motion.

(c) Any motion hereunder, which is not granted or otherwise expressly acted upon by the Board within 60 days after the filing thereof, shall be deemed denied, unless the parties are otherwise notified by the Board or its Secretary.

(d) The filing or granting of any motion under this rule shall not operate as a stay of the Board's decision or order. A stay will be granted only for good cause shown.

(e) Appeals of the Board's rulings on a motion for rehearing, reopening, or reconsideration must be made to the Appellate Division within 45 days of the Board's Order. The Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey provide the rules and procedures for filing the appeal. Information regarding filing an appeal may be obtained from the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey.

SUBCHAPTER 10. UNCONTESTED CASE PROCEEDINGS

14:17-10.1 Uncontested case proceedings

This subchapter applies only to a matter which the Board or Office determines to constitute an uncontested case. Where the Board or Office determines to hold a hearing in an uncontested case, said hearing shall be conducted pursuant to this section and, in the absence of a specific provision herein, pursuant to the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1, and the Board of Public Utilities Rules of Special Applicability, N.J.A.C. 1:14.

14:17-10.2 Designation

The Board or Director, may by general order in writing designate as a presiding officer such person or persons, as provided by statute, as its representative or representatives in and on its behalf to conduct any hearing in any uncontested proceeding now or hereafter pending before the Board or Office.

14:17-10.3 Filing

Pleadings, correspondence or other documents pertaining to an uncontested case shall be filed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:17-4. Copies of such correspondence shall be filed with the [presiding officer] **Secretary of the Board** and with the parties of record.

14:17-10.4 Cameras and recording devices

Cameras or recording devices may be used at uncontested case proceedings in accordance with the standards and procedures [of] **at** N.J.A.C. 14:17-1.8.

14:17-10.5 Appearances

Any person appearing in a representative capacity in any uncontested case proceeding shall conform to the requirements [of] **at** N.J.A.C. 14:17-3.

14:17-10.6 Service

Whenever a party has the right or is required to do some act within a prescribed period after the serving of a notice or other paper upon said party, and the notice or paper is served upon said party by mail, three days from the date of mailing shall be added to the prescribed period.

14:17-10.7 (Reserved)

SUBCHAPTER 11. COMPLIANCE WITH ORDERS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

14:17-11.1 Orders and decisions

Upon the issuance of an order or decision of the Board, the party to whom the same is directed must notify the Board through the Office on or before the date specified in said order or decision whether or not compliance has been made in conformity therewith.

14:17-11.2 Recommendations

Upon the making of any recommendation by the Board, the party to whom the same is directed must, within 15 days after the making of the recommendation, unless otherwise specifically required, notify the Board through the Office of the acceptance or rejection thereof. Failure to comply with this requirement will be deemed an acceptance of the recommendation.

14:17-11.3 Extension of time limits

In instances where the Board's decision or order contains a specific time or date for compliance, and the petitioner desires extension of such time limit, petition to the Board through the Office shall be made in writing at least five days before the expiration of the time limit.

14:17-11.4 Answers to communications

Unless otherwise specified, any letter or notice from the Board through the Office directing investigation of any matter under its jurisdiction must be complied with by the cable television company and a report received by the Office within 15 days from the date of the letter or notice. If circumstances prevent compliance with this section, the cable television company must advise the Board through the Office, in writing within the above prescribed period, of its inability to comply and the reasons therefor.