

STATE OF NEW YORK

Public Service Commission

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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

08081/08-V-0624;08-V-0947

PSC APPROVES VERIZON'S NYC CABLE SERVICE

-Commission's Action Fosters Cable Competition in State's Largest Market-

Albany, NY—07/16/08—The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) today voted to grant a Certificate of Confirmation (Certificate) to Verizon New York Inc. (Verizon) for its franchise with the City of New York (New York, Bronx, Queens, Kings, and Richmond Counties).

“Approval of Verizon’s franchise for New York City is a unique first-of-its-kind city-wide franchise for cable service and conforms with our policy of promoting customer choice and competition,” said Commission Chairman Garry Brown. “Ultimately, Verizon will provide direct competition to the other cable providers in New York City — a growing, dynamic marketplace with some eight million people living in just over three million households. The approval of Verizon’s franchise is a sure-fire win for consumers in New York City.”

As required under the Public Service Law, the Commission will issue an order approving Verizon’s Certificate of Confirmation, with certain clarifications to provisions of the franchise agreement. The term of the Certificate is for a 12 year period consistent with the franchise agreement between the City and Verizon.

In addition, the Commission today granted Verizon’s request of certain limited waivers of the Commission’s cable rules in light of the economic realities and scope of building-out the entire City of New York in an environment where Verizon will compete head-to-head with the incumbent cable operators.

Under the terms of the agreement, Verizon will be required to build-out the entire City within six years, rather than within five years of the approval of its franchise, unless additional extensions are granted under the terms of the franchise agreement with the City.

The Commission today also granted Verizon an additional 180 days to implement public, educational and governmental (PEG) access channels when rolling out its cable service. The extension was granted based upon the complexity inherent in effectively deploying the comprehensive PEG structure required under the franchise agreement between the City and the company. Since the plan for city-wide PEG access will ultimately far exceed the minimum requirements of the Commission's rules, the Commission deemed the extension of time to be in the public interest.

The Commission also granted limited waivers of certain of its rules on system description and seven business day installation requirements.

The Commission's decision in Cases 08-V-0624 and 08-V-0947, when issued, will be available on the Commission's www.dps.state.ny.us Web site by accessing the File Room section of the homepage. Many libraries offer free Internet access. Commission orders can also be obtained from the files Office, 14th floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500)