



**For Immediate Release:** 08/08/19

John B. Rhodes, Chair

**Contact:**

John Chirlin | John.Chirlin@dps.ny.gov | (518) 474-7080

<http://www.dps.ny.gov>

<http://twitter.com/NYS DPS>

**19070 /19-V-0359/19-V-0368/19-V-0437  
/19-V-0451/19-V-0291**

## **PSC Continues Expansion of State's Cable TV Services**

***New Cable Franchises Will Provide Competition and Choice in Four Upstate Communities***

***Supports Governor Cuomo's Vision for Universally Available Broadband***

**ALBANY** —The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) today approved cable franchise agreements for the Towns of Austerlitz and Ancram (Columbia County), the Village of Dresden (Yates County) and the Village of Sidney (Delaware County). Importantly, the Commission's confirmation of these cable franchises authorizes construction of facilities to be used for cable television service, which will be bundled with other telecommunications services, including broadband internet service. In most cases, the cable lines will be installed on existing utility poles located in existing rights-of-way.

"The availability of state-of-the-art telecommunication services is vital for urban and rural communities, alike," **said Commission Chair John B. Rhodes**. "Approving these franchise agreements promotes consumer choice and provides new service offerings in the respective communities while enhancing competition in the telecommunication marketplace."

In the telecommunications sector, the Commission is continuing its oversight of the State's broadband build-out, helping achieve Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's vision for universally available broadband. As part of its approval of cable mergers in the past few years, the Commission has required substantial investment in broadband infrastructure, increased broadband speeds, and new low-income broadband programs throughout New York. Today's approvals support the State's broadband expansion initiatives.

The four franchise agreements approved by the Commission today are:

- **The Village of Sidney (Delaware County):** The Village of Sidney (population 3,653) entered into an agreement with DTC Cable, Inc. (DTC Cable) to provide cable television services to its residents. Internet service will also be made available, either as standalone service or in bundles with phone and cable television service. Internet speeds start at 75 Mbps and are available up to 1Gbps. DTC Cable will also provide the Village of Sidney's residents a choice as currently only Charter Communications is serving the Village.
- **The Village of Austerlitz (Columbia County):** The Village of Austerlitz (population 1,607) entered into an agreement with Berkshire Cable to provide cable television services to its residents. Internet service will also be made available, either as standalone service or in bundles with phone and cable television service. Internet speeds start at 25 Mbps and are

available up to 1Gbs. Berkshire Cable will also provide the Village of Austerlitz's residents a choice as currently only Charter Communications is serving the Village.

- **The Village of Ancram (Columbia County):** The Village of Ancram (population 1,503) entered into an agreement with Berkshire Cable Corp. (Berkshire Cable) to provide cable television services to its residents. Internet service will also be made available, either as standalone service or in bundles with phone and cable television service. Internet speeds start at 25 Megabits per second (Mbps) and are available up to 1 Gigabits per second (Gbs). Berkshire Cable will also provide the Village of Ancram's residents a choice as currently only Charter Communications is serving the Village.
- **The Village of Dresden (Yates County):** The Village of Dresden (population 295) entered into an agreement with Empire Video Services Corporation (Empire Video) to provide cable television services to its residents. Internet service will also be made available, either as standalone service or in bundles with phone and cable television service. Internet speeds start at 100 Mbps and are available up to 1Gbps. Empire Video will also provide the Village of Dresden's residents a choice as currently only Charter Communications is serving the Village.

Finally, at the request of the Town of Stephentown (Rensselaer County) the Commission waived the requirement to nationally advertise the Town's request for proposals for a cable television franchise. Two cable companies have already expressed an interest in providing cable service in the Town which makes the requirement of national advertising unnecessary.

Today's decisions may be obtained by going to the Commission Documents section of the Commission's Web site at [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov) and entering Case Numbers, 19-V-0359 [Village of Ancram], 19-V-0368 [Village of Austerlitz], 19-V-0437 [Village of Dresden], 19-V-0451 [Village of Sidney] or 19-V-0291 [Town of Stephentown] in the input box labeled "Search for Case/Matter Number". Many libraries offer free Internet access. Commission documents may also be obtained from the Commission's Files Office, 14th floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500). If you have difficulty understanding English, please call us at 1-800-342-3377 for free language assistance services regarding this press release.