

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 6174

Petition of Easton Telecom Services, Inc. to )  
amend its Certificate of Public Good to provide )  
local exchange telecommunications services in )  
the State of Vermont )

Order entered: 3/4/99

**PREHEARING CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM**

**BACKGROUND**

On January 19, 1999, I convened a prehearing conference in this proceeding. Appearances were entered by: Sheldon Katz, Esq., for the Vermont Department of Public Service ("Department"); and Patrick D. Crocker, Esq., for Easton Telecom Services, Inc. ("Easton").

**SCHEDULE**

None of the prehearing conference participants sought evidentiary hearings on Easton's request for an amended certificate of public good ("CPG"). Instead, the petitioner and the Department will attempt to resolve this proceeding through negotiations, with the expectation that the Department's concerns can be addressed through conditions placed upon the CPG.<sup>1</sup> To this end, petitioner and the Department will attempt to submit a draft Proposal for Decision. A copy of the draft Proposal for Decision should also be provided to the independent telephone companies<sup>2</sup> and New England Telephone and Telegraph Company d/b/a Bell Atlantic-Vermont ("BAVT").<sup>3</sup>

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1. I expect that the parties will use the Board's Orders in other recent petitions from companies seeking authorization to provide competitive local service as the starting point for these discussions.

2. The independent telephone companies are: STE/NE Acquisition Corp. d/b/a Northland Telephone Company of Vermont; Perkinsville Telephone Company; Shoreham Telephone Company, Inc.; Waitsfield-Fayston Telephone Company, Inc. d/b/a Waitsfield Telecom, d/b/a Champlain Valley Telecom; Topsham Telephone Company; Franklin Telephone Company; Northfield Telephone Company; and Ludlow Telephone Company.

3. BAVT will be treated as an interested person. If BAVT subsequently decides to seek party status, it shall file a Motion to Intervene.

Because of the parties' current plan, I will not set a schedule at this time. If the parties cannot reach agreement through negotiation, they will inform me and I will convene a status conference to schedule further proceedings.

SO ORDERED.

DATED at Montpelier, Vermont, this 1st day of March, 1999.

s/ Gregg C. Faber  
Gregg C. Faber  
Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: March 4, 1999

ATTEST: s/ Susan M. Hudson  
Clerk of the Board

*Notice to Readers: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board of any technical errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made.*