

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 5713

Investigation into New England Telephone and)
Telegraph Company's (NET's) tariff filing re:)
Open Network Architecture, including)
the unbundling of NET's network, expanded)
interconnection, and intelligent networks in re:)
LPIC changes, customer service representative)
survey and UNE-P)

Order entered: 12/10/98

**ORDER RE: REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF FILING DEADLINE
AND FURTHER PROCEEDINGS ON THE UNE-PLATFORM**

In its Order of August 10, 1998, the Board approved a rate of \$2.20 to be charged by New England Telephone & Telegraph Company d/b/a Bell Atlantic-Vermont ("BAVT" or "Company") when changing a customer's presubscribed intraLATA toll carrier ("LPIC"). The Board was concerned, however, with one aspect of the cost data that underlay the charge (having to do with the time spent by the Company's customer service representatives when processing LPIC changes manually) and it directed BAVT to perform a new study and file it within ninety days of the Order.¹

On October 23, 1998, the Company filed a request to extend the deadline for the new study from November 10, 1998, to February 10, 1999. Accompanying the request was a short status report on the Company's efforts to date. On November 6th, the Vermont Department of Public Service ("DPS") filed a letter in response, noting several concerns with BAVT's approach to the study. On November 23rd, BAVT filed a second letter, reiterating its request and pointing out that the DPS had not objected to the extension request.

I grant the request. It is reasonable to allow the Company additional time to perform a study that is both more reliable and, one hopes, cost-effective.

1. Order of 8/10/98 at 15, 23.

On October 8, 1998, the Board issued an Order concluding, among other things, that, under Vermont law, it has authority to direct local exchange companies to provide unbundled network elements to competitive providers on a recombined basis (referred to as the "UNE-Platform" or "UNE-P"). The Board then instructed me to take evidence on the factual and policy issues surrounding UNE-P.²

On November 5, 1998, the DPS filed a letter bringing to my attention decisions on UNE-P in other jurisdictions and asking that a procedural schedule for the resolution of this issue in Vermont be set. The next day, AT&T Communications of New England, Inc., submitted a similar letter.

I direct the parties to file, either jointly or individually, a proposed schedule for addressing UNE-P issues. These filings shall be made on or before January 6, 1999.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 10th day of December, 1998.

s/ Frederick W. Weston, III

Frederick W. Weston, III
Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: December 10, 1998

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.

2. Order of 10/8/98 at 14.