

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 6012

Generic Investigation Into the Transition)
from Regulation to Competition for Public)
Telephone Services in Vermont)

Order entered: 6/22/98

PREHEARING CONFERENCE REPORT

AND NOTICE OF WORKSHOP

I. Introduction

A prehearing conference to continue the Board's consideration of this docket was held on June 11, 1998. In addition to the Department of Public Service ("DPS"), represented by Leslie A. Cadwell, Esq., the following local exchange companies were represented at the prehearing conference: New England Telephone and Telegraph Company d/b/a Bell Atlantic-Vermont ("Bell Atlantic") by Thomas Dailey, Esq. and Cecelia Roudiez, Esq.; and nine independent telephone companies, by Paul J. Phillips, Esq., of Primmer & Piper, including Shoreham Telephone Company, Topsham Telephone Company, Northfield Telephone Company, Perkinsville Telephone Company, Ludlow Telephone Company, Franklin Telephone Company, Northland Telephone, Waitsfield Telecom and Champlain Valley Telecom.

The purpose of the prehearing conference was to: (1) set the schedule for discovery and hearings for resolution of the unresolved issues in the investigation; (2) set the schedule for a workshop to be held in August to assess the payphone monitoring information and to discuss the need for a public interest payphone program in Vermont; and (3) discuss any other relevant issues.

A motion to intervene filed by Marjorie Johnston on January 7, 1998, was discussed. Since this request was not served on the parties, it was agreed that the Board would distribute the request and parties would have until July 6, 1998, to comment.

Bell Atlantic indicated that it considers the payphone information that it will be filing shortly is confidential. It was agreed that any party that believes that its payphone information is confidential would follow usual Board procedures and file protective agreements with the filing. I will rule on requests to treat the information as confidential at that time.

II. Schedule

Unresolved Transition to Competition Issues: The parties indicated that a stipulation regarding the issues on which they have reached consensus will be filed with the Hearing Officer and all parties by early July. The DPS requested, and the Hearing Officer agreed, that the outcome of this phase of the investigation ultimately should be Board rules regarding payphones to insure that all providers have ready access to the requirements for the provision of payphone services in Vermont. Prior to the promulgation of these rules by the Board, it was agreed that it would be useful to have a contested case proceeding on the unresolved issues as a part of this investigation and for the Board to issue an order of general applicability that would set the payphone standards until rules are adopted. The results of the contested case then will be used for the development of the payphone rules. Consequently, the parties agreed to the following schedule for the contested case:

July 6, 1998	DPS Files First Round of Discovery on Parties.
July 20, 1998	Parties' Responses Due.
July 27, 1998	DPS Files Second Round of Discovery
August 10, 1998	Second Round Responses Due.
August 24, 1998	DPS Prefiled Testimony Due.
August 31, 1998	Parties' Discovery Requests on DPS Due.
September 16, 1998	DPS Responses Due.
October 5, 1998	Parties' Prefiled Testimony Due.
October 20, 1998	Rebuttal Testimony of DPS and Other Parties Due.
Technical Hearings	First Week of November.

Public Interest Payphone Workshop: the parties agreed that the workshop to consider the payphone information and the need for a public interest payphone program would be held on August 25, 1998.

Notice of Workshop

A workshop as outlined above will be held on Wednesday, August 26, 1998, at 9:30 A.M. at the Public Service Board's Hearing Room, Third Floor, Chittenden Bank Building, 112 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont. The Department of Public Service will consult with the parties to develop an agenda for this workshop, and will forward the proposed agenda to the Board and all parties by August 18, 1998.

DATED at Montpelier, Vermont, this 22nd day of June, 1998.

s/ Peter B. Meyer

Peter B. Meyer
Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: June 22, 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.