

July 17, 2017

JUL 19 '17 AM 10:51
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Anthony Roisman, Chairman
Vermont Public Utilities Commission
122 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2701

Mr. Roisman,

Vermonters try to take great pride in this great state of ours. Each and every year there is Green Up Day where the winter's trash is picked up and disposed of. VTrans and Vermont cities and towns regularly mow along the various highways and byways to keep our green state looking pretty. Garden clubs statewide plant flower beds in their local community.

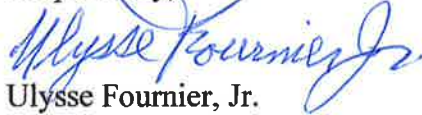
So it is extremely discouraging and frustrating when one witnesses a corporate entity in this state being a "poor" corporate neighbor. In this regard I speak of FairPoint Communications, Inc.(FairPoint). The Vermont Public Utilities Commission (VPUC) recently approved of the sale of this "poor" corporate neighbor to Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc, but did not take FairPoint to task nor did it penalize the company for its inexcusably fourth-rate business practice. VPUC may ask of what I am speaking. So let me explain.

For decades it was the policy and practice of various utilities to implement a top down approach when a utility pole was replaced. The topmost utility would move their utility line to the new pole and the next utility down the pole would then move their utility line. So on and so forth until the last utility company would move their line and, at that point, the old utility pole would be removed by this last utility company. It fell to the telephone company to remove the utility pole because the telephone line was always the lowest utility on the pole and the last to be moved, until FairPoint came to town. FairPoint, following its purchase of Verizon, abandoned that practice. Consequently, the entire state is littered with utility poles that Fairpoint has neither moved its lines from nor removed.

For any Vermonter that travels within this state, you will see these "half poles" that FairPoint ignored in Barre, Montpelier, Rutland, St Albans and in many other cities and towns. At one point, the City of Montpelier asked FairPoint to move their telephone lines and to remove these abandoned utility poles. In Barre City alone, there are more than seventy of these "half poles" because, once again, FairPoint chose to ignore the past practice of moving their telephone lines and removing these poles.

Needless to say, it is a damn shame the VPUC did not take FairPoint to task for being such a "poor" corporate neighbor.

Respectfully,


Ulysse Fournier, Jr.

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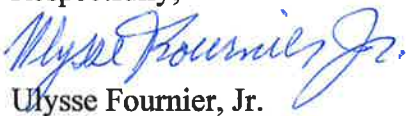
Ms. Sarah Hofmann, Commissioner
Vermont Public Utilities Commission
122 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2701

Ms. Hofmann,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter that was sent to Mr. Roisman, Vt PUC chair on this date.

As a Vermonter, I would like it known how disappointing and frustrating it is to watch "poor" corporate neighbors leave our beautiful state littered because of their contemptible business practices.

Respectfully,


Ulysse Fournier, Jr.

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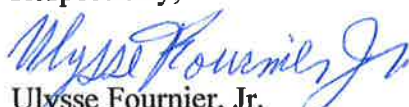
Ms. Margaret Cheney, Commissioner
Vermont Public Utilities Commission
122 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2701

Ms. Cheney,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter that was sent to Mr. Roisman, Vt PUC chair on this date.

As a Vermonter, I would like it known how disappointing and frustrating it is to watch "poor" corporate neighbors leave our beautiful state littered because of their contemptible business practices.

Respectfully,


Ulysse Fournier, Jr.