

October 23, 2017

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Communication -- WC Docket 17-84

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This is to notify you pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules that on October 19, 2017 the undersigned along with Phillip D. Moeller Senior Vice President and Aryeh Fishman Associate General Counsel of the Edison Electric Institute, Joseph J. Nice Manger Real Estate Pepco and Thomas Magee counsel for Pepco ("the Industry Group") met with Jay Schwarz Wireline Advisor to Chairman Ajit Pai, Claude Aiken Legal Advisor Wireline to Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, and Amy Bender Legal Advisor Wireline to Commissioner Michael O'Reilly in connection with the above-referenced proceeding.

The Industry Group discussed the multi-billion dollar investment that the electric industry is making in order to modernize this nation's power grid. They noted that this new smart energy infrastructure has been enabled by the convergence of energy and telecommunications technologies and that the industry's reliance on communications is increasing. Further, they pointed out that, electric companies have made a commitment to and begun to partner with localities and others around the nation to develop smart communities.

The Industry Group then discussed pole attachment safety and reliability as well as pole attachment rates. They first discussed the basics of pole design, the distribution system and the pole attachment process. The Industry Group noted that the electric system poses inherent hazards and requires rigorous design. Nothing is more important than the safety of workers and the public. Consequently, unique skills are required.

The Industry Group discussed one-touch-make-ready ("OTMR"). They indicated that mandated OTMR must be limited to the communications space. They noted the dangers involved and the complex skills necessary for someone—contractor or electric company employee—to work in the electric space.

The Industry Group explained why wireless antenna installations should be treated differently than wireline attachments. They also pointed out that wireless attachments pose special issues, and that the attachments placed by attachers to poles are much larger than "pizza boxes" than "pizza boxes," are constantly changing in design, and more resemble "barrels." Rather than continuing with "more of the same" type of regulation of the providers of pole

space, the Commission should instead focus on policies that provide the proper incentives to encourage collaboration and innovative solutions.

The Industry Group went on to state that pole attachment rates are not a meaningful factor in wireline broadband deployment decisions. Moreover, the Commission's current policies, and those proposed in the NPRM, do not promote collaboration between the pole owner and the communications attacher.

The Industry Group used the attached documents.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Stinson Leonard Street LLP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "H. Russell Frisby, Jr.".

H. Russell Frisby, Jr

HF:SLS

Attachments

cc: Jay Schwarz
Claude Aiken
Amy Bender