

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR



BARBARA ANTHONY
UNDERSECRETARY OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND
BUSINESS REGULATION

GREGORY BIALECKI
SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS & CABLE**

1000 Washington St., Suite 820 Boston, MA 02118
(617) 305-3580 FAX (617) 478-2591
www.mass.gov/dtc

KAREN CHARLES PETERSON
COMMISSIONER

September 30, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554
Filed via ECFS

Universal Service Administrative Company
Vice President, High Cost and Low Income Division
2000 L Street NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
Filed via email (hccerts@usac.org)

**Re: CC Docket No. 96-45/WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 14-58, Annual State Certification
of Support for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314**

Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable (MDTC) hereby certifies to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) that the eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) named below are eligible to receive federal high-cost support for the program years cited.

The MDTC certifies that for the carriers listed all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers within Massachusetts was used in the preceding calendar year (**2013**) and will be used in the coming calendar year (**2015**) only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.¹

Richmond Telephone Company (study area code 110037)
Granby Telephone Company d/b/a OTT Communications (study area code 110036)
Taconic Telephone Corp. d/b/a FairPoint Communications (study area code 150084)²
Verizon Massachusetts (study area code 115112)

¹ See 47 C.F.R. §54.314(a) (“Certification. States that desire eligible telecommunications carriers to receive support pursuant to the high-cost program must file an annual certification with the Administrator and the Commission stating that all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers within that State was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. High-cost support shall only be provided to the extent that the State has filed the requisite certification pursuant to this section.”).

² Taconic’s study area is based in New York but extends into Massachusetts.

The MDTC bases its certification on these ETCs' FCC Form 481 filings and supplements, as applicable, provided to the MDTC upon request, together with the ETCs' sworn affidavits.³ The MDTC attaches copies of the ETCs' supplemental filing cover letters and affidavits, as well as a copy of its annual Form 481 filing Notice to ETCs, for reference.

Should the FCC or USAC require any additional information concerning this matter, please contact me or Kerri DeYoung Phillips, Counsel, Competition Division, at (617) 368-1141 or Kerri.DeYoung@state.ma.us.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Charles Peterson, Commissioner

By: /s/ Karlen Reed
Karlen Reed
Director, Competition Division
Massachusetts Department of
Telecommunications and Cable
1000 Washington Street, Suite 820
Boston, MA 02118-6500
(617) 368-1101
Karlen.Reed@state.ma.us

KR/kdp

Attachments

cc: Trina Bragdon, Granby Telephone/OTT (*by email*)
Megan Cobleigh, Granby Telephone/OTT (*by email*)
Richard Drake, Richmond Telephone Company (*by email*)
Eileen Bodamer, Consultant to Richmond Telephone (*by email*)
Beth Westman, Taconic Telephone/FairPoint (*by email*)
Alexander Moore, Verizon (*by email*)
Lisa Thorne, Verizon (*by email*)
Christopher Bean, Verizon (*by email*)

³ See, e.g., *In re: Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Order, DA 13-1348 (rel. Jun. 10, 2013), at 6 (anticipating states' reliance on ETCs' FCC Form 481 filings as a basis for states' certifications). See also MDTC Notice to All Massachusetts ETCs Receiving Federal USF High-Cost or Low-Income Support (May 8, 2014).