

APPENDIX A

RCN Service Connections:

<u>Advanced Fiber</u>	<u>December 31, 1999</u>	<u>March 31, 2000</u>
<u>On-Net</u>		
Voice	62,733	68,550
Video	138,577	160,665
Data	21,654	26,698
Subtotal On-Net	222,964	255,913
<u>Off-Net</u>		
Voice	48,986	45,262
Video	153,627	139,383
Data	523,728	500,495
Subtotal Off-Net	523,728	685,140
Total Service Connections	947,305	941,053
Advanced Fiber Homes Passed	713,823	808,023
Marketable Homes	551,006	601,745

APPENDIX B



April 7, 2000

Patrick W. Musseau
Aerial Rights of Way Coordinator
RCN-BecoCom, L.L.C.
647A Summer Street
Boston, MA 02210

SUBJECT: RCN-BecoCom, L.L.C. System Build Out in Quincy

Dear Mr. Musseau:

Recently, the mayor of Quincy sponsored a meeting at his office between Bell Atlantic, RCN-BecoCom, L.L.C. and Massachusetts Electric Company to address concerns that RCN-BecoCom has about the field survey and make-ready process for its system build out in Quincy. At this meeting, you made a number of proposals aimed at speeding this process.

1. **Box the Poles: RCN-BecoCom proposed locating its cable on the side of the pole opposite the existing communications cables as a way of reducing make-ready pole replacements where the only issue is space on the pole. We have always opposed boxing poles (placing wires on both sides of the pole) because it creates great difficulties in maintaining equipment on the pole and in climbing and replacing the poles and from an operational perspective see no reason to change our position now. As you pointed out, some poles have already been boxed. Of course, where a pole is already boxed we will allow you to place a wire on the less populated side of the pole. Boxing poles will not eliminate the need for field surveys or for pole replacements because pole strength as well as space must be considered.**
2. **Install Cable Now and Complete Field Survey and Make-Ready Work Later: RCN-BecoCom proposed installing its cable now and performing the field survey later. This creates immediate safety problems. This proposal ignores clearance and pole strength concerns, knowingly allows the creation of safety risks to all workers on the pole and to the general public and is unacceptable to Massachusetts Electric.**
3. **Install Cable on an Extension Bracket in the Communications Space: RCN-BecoCom proposed installing its cable on a bracket in the communications space to reduce make-ready work. Like boxing the poles, this may help with space problems, but will not eliminate field surveys or make-ready where pole strength is not adequate. We are concerned about reduction of pole strength by drilling many bolt holes through the pole**

close together. We can accept this alternative provided that pole strength is adequate and bolt holes can be kept at least 4 inches apart to avoid severely weakening the pole.

4. **Install Cable in the Safety Space:** With this proposal, RCN-BecoCom is basically asking for permission to eliminate the communications space on the pole. Because this will have no impact on our operations, Massachusetts Electric has no objection to this. We do feel compelled to point out that this will have a significant effect on the operations, equipment and work practice requirements of all communications parties attached to the pole, including your attachments and the city's fire alarm system. The NESC defines two types of space on a pole: the supply space (or electric space) and the communications space. The two types of space have different rules for clearances between wires and different safety rules for workers. The NESC allows, but does not require, the creation of a separate communications space on the pole to allow communications workers to take advantage of the less stringent work practice, equipment and training requirements allowed in the communications space. The safety space (NESC Rule 235 specifies minimum clearances at the pole and at mid-span) is required to create a separate communications space. Until a separate communications space is created, the communications wires must be considered to be in the supply space. The NESC does allow the placement of communications wires in the supply space but requires work on those wires to be done to supply space rules. Placing your cable in the safety space would mean that the safety space requirement has not been met and a separate communications space does not exist on the pole. This will not affect Massachusetts Electric because our workers are already required to work to supply space rules. On the other hand, this will have a significant effect on the work practices of all existing communications parties attached to the pole, including the existing cable and telephone companies and the city owned fire alarm signal wires.
5. **Install Cable in the Supply Space:** RCN-Becom's proposal to install its cable in the supply space on the pole is acceptable to Massachusetts Electric. This type of installation will require close coordination of the designs, installations and work practices of our two companies to meet minimum clearances and work practice requirements of OSHA and the NESC. Massachusetts Electric has a standard policy that covers the installation of all-dielectric fiber optic cable in the supply space on poles and allows other installations, including messenger supported cables, on an exception basis. The policy is available on the internet at "<http://www.masselectric.com/library/shared/supply14.pdf>." We will need to get our technical people together to work out details of the appropriate design, installation and work practice standards.
6. **Temporarily Install RCN-BecoCom's Cable in the Municipal Space:** RCN-BecoCom proposed temporarily installing its cable in the municipal space on the poles. This proposal is based on the erroneous notion that there is a space set aside for the city on

each pole that is empty and that you are being denied access to this space. While it is true that Massachusetts Electric has agreed to allow municipal attachments for fire alarm signal systems, it is not true that Massachusetts Electric is blocking use of pole space set aside for this purpose. If there is empty space on a pole and the pole is strong enough to support your proposed attachment, that space is being made available to you, whether or not there is already a municipal attachment on the pole.

If you have any questions, please call me at 508-421-7802.

Sincerely,
MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY



G. Paul Anundson
Overhead Line Coordinator

c: Mayor James E. Sheets, City of Quincy
M. P. Della Barba
R. L. Francazio
P. Graening
F. Raymond
R. B. Colon
L. Scholl

Bell Atlantic - New England
125 Lundquist Drive
Braintree, MA 02184

May 2, 2000

Mayor James A. Sheets
City of Quincy
1305 Hancock Street
Quincy, MA 02169



Dear Mayor Sheets:

As you know from your lengthy tenure as chief executive of the City of Presidents, Bell Atlantic strives to be as accommodating as possible in our dealings with municipal governments. Whether through the deployment of state-of-the-art communications services to city agencies or by supporting public schools through our philanthropy program, Bell Atlantic places a premium on partnering relationships with local governments.

This philosophy of partnership continues to guide us as we address the current issue of how best to assist Quincy in realizing its objective of achieving competition in the cable television market. We are eager to facilitate RCN's cable deployment in the most expeditious and safe manner. In addition to being in your interest and that of your city, bringing RCN "on line" with cable and phone service is important to Bell Atlantic because it will be yet another manifestation of our company opening the local network to competition.

It is clearly in Bell Atlantic's interest to bring a spirit of cooperation to the RCN cable deployment project. By working purposefully with RCN and Massachusetts Electric, we are convinced that this project can move ahead briskly. However, safety and good sense dictate that prudence as well as purposefulness must characterize the process.

What follows are Bell Atlantic's answers to specific questions that were raised during our meeting on March 22nd:

1. Can Bell Atlantic speed up the process for RCN to build out its network in Quincy?
 - Bell Atlantic is willing to work with RCN and any other 3rd party licensee to address common issues which can facilitate the process for attaching to Bell Atlantic poles. We conduct monthly meetings with representatives of all third party companies to address mutual concerns and insure process equity. RCN has been represented at these meetings.
2. Will Bell Atlantic allow RCN to "box" the poles?
 - The practice of boxing poles is not an accepted Bell Atlantic construction standard. When poles are surrounded on each side (boxed) by cable an unsafe work environment is created. In addition, a pole owner's ability to replace the pole is greatly impeded. We recognize that some boxed pole conditions do exist in the city of Quincy. However, Bell Atlantic will not allow new boxed pole situations to be created. Moreover, boxing poles will not necessarily speed up the process.
3. Will joint owners allow RCN to attach in the reserved municipal space?
 - No. As a condition of our grant of authority to locate poles on public ways, municipalities require that we reserve space for their use. Bell Atlantic must honor that condition.
4. Will Bell Atlantic allow RCN to attach in the neutral space?
 - No. The National Electric Safety Code provides for the maintenance of a neutral space. A 40" neutral space is standard throughout Bell Atlantic, and neither Bell Atlantic nor any licensee may attach facilities within that space.

5. Will Bell Atlantic allow RCN to use extension brackets?

- Bell Atlantic's practice is not to use pole extension arms except in rare circumstances. The use of such extension arms impedes the ability of all attachers to maintain facilities and may place additional strain on poles that affects their safety.

It is Bell Atlantic's earnest hope and expectation that we can work harmoniously with the other parties to achieve a result that serves all concerned – especially the residents of your city.

If you have any questions on this matter, please don't hesitate to call me at 781-380-2700. I look forward to our next opportunity to discuss this or any other engineering issue related to telecommunications service in Quincy.

Sincerely,



Laurie Scholl
Senior Specialist
South Shore Engineering


Robert Noble
Senior Specialist
Public Affairs

cc:

P. Musseau (RCN)
F. Raymond (MECo)
R. Mudge(BA)



165 University Avenue
Westwood, MA 02090
(781) 381-3000

May 10, 2000

The Honorable Mayor Sheets
City Hall
1306 Hancock Street
Quincy, MA 02169

Dear Mayor Sheets:

Welcome to our world. You now have the responses from NEES and Bell Atlantic to the questions raised at the meeting you called on March 22, 2000. RCN noted at that time that under the present approach used by the pole owning utilities to control access to the poles, the City of Quincy could project that competition to telephone and cable television would not become a reality for at least five years. RCN proposed several new approaches for consideration by NEES and Bell Atlantic. These pole owning utilities left the meeting to consider our proposals or offer alternatives that would be responsive to the demands of Quincy residents.

NEES responded first and offered some hope for change in its letter of April 3, 2000. When we contacted Anthony Pini of NEES Com to seek to develop the options offered in the letter we were stopped in our tracks. NEES offered cooperation with one hand but took it back with the other when they told us to make sure that Bell Atlantic would support the pro competition moves of NEES.

Bell Atlantic's response is entirely negative. The utility will not allow "new boxed pole situations to be created"; will not allow RCN to attach in the municipal space; will not allow RCN to attach in the neutral space (which they define incorrectly as a sacrosanct 40 inch zone); and will not allow RCN to use extension brackets. Bell Atlantic will continue to have monthly meetings "to address mutual concerns and insure process equity". Well, I guess that is that.

After waiting six weeks for this thoughtful response from Bell Atlantic, in our world as we have known it, we now wrangle over the issues and debate the validity of Bell Atlantic's positions. This results in more delay and, given the powerful position of the pole owning utility, predictably results in no progress. This is the reason that we sought your assistance to help us work with the utilities to meet our franchise requirement of building the Quincy system in two years.

RCN must be allowed to "box" poles in Quincy, as needed, to facilitate construction. This means that wires may be strung on both sides of poles. The pole owning utilities offer no good reason in opposition to this practice. Utility workers no longer climb poles so the safety concern is not valid. There are methods that can be used to "change out" a boxed pole that do require some added work but the benefits to all parties realized by streamlined construction far outweigh minor impediments when boxed poles are replaced for any reason.

The utilities have acknowledged a changed set of circumstances when it comes to boxing poles. At the present time approximately one out of every five poles in Quincy is boxed because this serves the needs of the utilities. NEES is responsive to this reality when it indicates in its letter to RCN that: "of course, where a pole is already boxed we will allow you to place a wire on the less populated side of the pole". At our March 22 meeting Laurie Scholl stated that this would also be the policy of Bell Atlantic.

RCN is to be allowed to box poles along with the utilities on some 20% of the Quincy plant. Any extension of this practice to facilitate construction by RCN is rejected by both utilities simply because they have the power to do so and they choose to do so. Bell Atlantic and NEES are competitors to RCN. They box their own poles when it suits their needs and refuse to extend the policy to cover RCN's construction. This is blatantly anti-competitive and just plain wrong.

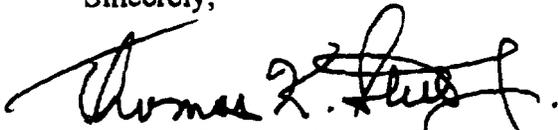
The status quo is unacceptable. The knee jerk negativity of Bell Atlantic is unacceptable. We cannot allow ourselves to be dragged into months of fruitless negotiations. We ask your assistance toward helping us secure the ability to box poles in Quincy when we deem it is appropriate to do so. We will still work with the utilities on preliminary field surveys but the stranglehold that the utilities have over our construction must be loosened.

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Our request to the utilities remains simple: let us box. With this simple change we can confidently work toward meeting our franchise requirements in Quincy. If Bell Atlantic continues to resist this positive approach then we should plan to meet to discuss our mutual options.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please contact me with any questions at (781) 381-3107.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas K. Steel, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas K Steel, Jr.
Vice President and Regulatory Counsel

cc: G. Paul Anundson
Laurie Scholl
Robert Noble

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Sharon Gantt, hereby certify that on this 8th day of September, 2000, a copy of the foregoing Comments of RCN Corporation was served on the following parties listed below via messenger or, if marked with an asterisk, by first class postage-paid U.S. mail:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon A. Gantt", written over a horizontal line.

Sharon A. Gantt