

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Dee May
Executive Director
Federal Regulatory

RECEIVED

FEB 23 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

verizon

1300 I Street N.W., Floor 400W
Washington, DC 20005

Phone 202 515-2529
Fax 202 336-7922
dolores.a.may@verizon.com

February 23, 2001

Ex Parte

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W. – Portals
Washington, DC 20554

ORIGINAL

RE: Application by Verizon New England Inc., et al., for Authorization To Provide In-Region, InterLATA Services in Massachusetts, Docket No. 01-9

Dear Ms. Salas:

The CCB staff requested information regarding the types of issues Verizon has identified during its Quality Inspections of the central office wiring work it performed to accommodate line sharing and the type of corrective action it has taken as a result of those inspections. This memo responds to these inquiries.

As explained in the Lacouture/Ruesterholz Supplemental Declaration, Verizon undertook a special project management process to complete en masse the initial line sharing-related collocation work. In addition, in an effort to identify and correct any problems in those central offices, Verizon adopted a Quality Inspection process pursuant to which a special team of Verizon engineers inspected all of the line sharing collocation work that Verizon project managed for CLECs. Verizon then took steps to correct any identified problems.

Verizon has now completed Quality Inspections and taken the necessary corrective action for all of the line sharing-related collocation arrangements that were in place as of December 1, 2000 (which constitute the bulk of these arrangements) in both Massachusetts and New York.

The Quality Inspections revealed a small number of issues, which were easily corrected. Early on, the inspections found that in a few cases, Verizon's inventory database had not been updated to reflect the facilities assignment information Verizon provided to the CLECs. Verizon quickly remedied that problem by properly updating its inventory database with the proper assignment data.

No. of Copies rec'd 0+1
List A B C D E

The other primary types of collocation problems identified involved the mislabeling or stenciling of the blocks on the main distribution frame ("MDF") or POT Bay; the reversal of the tip and ring portions of a circuit which prevented syncing between the DLEC's modem and DSLAM; and the improper terminations of cable at either the MDF or the splitter shelf. It is important to note that not all of these issues would prevent the provisioning of a line sharing order. For example, the mislabeling or mis-stenciling of information on the splitter and POT Bay would not impact the completion of an order because the cross connection work to provision a line sharing order takes place at the MDF -- not the POT Bay.

In New York, the corrective action was actually performed by outside vendors retained by Verizon, and sometimes, jointly retained by Verizon and the DLEC. Verizon provided guidance to the vendor on the required corrective action in those instances. Verizon also worked with the vendors to determine whether the collocation problem was with Verizon's or the DLEC's portion of the work. In Massachusetts, Verizon personnel performed any necessary corrective action.

To correct the cabling problems (which include the reversal of the tip and ring), the cables were re-terminated to the proper destinations and re-tested to ensure accuracy. To correct the stenciling problems, the blocks were re-labeled with the proper CLEC information.

The elements of the Quality Inspection process have now been incorporated into Verizon's normal collocation inspection process. Consequently, going forward, new line sharing-related collocation arrangements (*i.e.* those arrangements that were put in place after the project management effort ended) will be subject to this inspection process as well.

Please let me know if you have any questions. The twenty-page limit does not apply as set forth in DA 01-106.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dee May" followed by a circled monogram, likely "DM".

cc: E. Einhorn
K. Farroba
C. Libertelli
S. Pie