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EX PARTE

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

Re: In the Matter of Application of Verizon New Jersey Inc. and Verizon New York Inc. To Discontinue Domestic Telecommunications Services, WC 13-150

Dear Ms. Dortch:

After much discussion with our customers, Verizon has decided to deploy fiber to the western portion of Fire Island. This decision was reached in light of the unique circumstances on Fire Island, including the lack of other wireline options for customers, and to respond to the high level of interest among Fire Island residents in a wider range of services. Among other things, this fiber network – which we plan to complete in advance of the 2014 summer season – will support both traditional telephone service as well as a broader range of voice and broadband services available over fiber. We will also continue to offer Voice Link service as an available option for voice-only customers on Fire Island. The attached blog posting by Tom Maguire explains in more detail the reasons for Verizon's decision to deploy fiber.

In light of this decision, we are assessing our pending section 214 discontinuance application in this docket. We intend to withdraw or amend the application, as appropriate, following our review. As such, we ask that the Commission suspend its review of our application until Friday, September 27, 2013. As appropriate, we will also provide any additional or supplemental responses to the Bureau's data requests at that time.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Maggi McCreedy

Attachment

CC: Julie Veach
Lisa Gelb
William Dever
Tim Stelzig
Rodney McDonald

A Fiber-Optic Network For Fire Island

Tom Maguire

Sep 11 | [Tom Maguire](#)

In nearly 34 years in the communications industry, I've never seen a community have its telecommunication infrastructure wiped away like the western side of Fire Island.

This quiet little summer community off the shores of Long Island was ravaged by Superstorm Sandy beyond anything I've experienced before. It's no secret that last year's storm either destroyed or literally washed away our longtime copper landline network on the western side of the island.

Our first objective was to restore voice service, and to do so in a reliable and resilient way. We looked to do this without disrupting the already-damaged environment or getting in the way of other people working to restore the homes and businesses hit by the storm - all in time for the critical summer season.

Because of the monumental damage to our landline network there, and the limited amount of time we had to restore services, we offered a state-of-the-art wireless product, Voice Link, that was able to provide reliable home voice service to our customers.

But our work was not limited to simply adding capacity to our wireless network, installing Voice Link units, and repairing copper cables that were salvageable - we also reached out to community leaders and regulators to explain what we were doing and why. We spent many hours talking to these leaders and island residents about the community's needs and how we could best address them.

During each of these discussions we reiterated our top commitment: provide communication service to our customers that was not only as good, but better than what they had before. Our customers are why we are in business - we rely on them and they rely on us. This is especially true on Fire Island where we are the only wireline provider and the premier wireless company.

It is because of this commitment that we have decided to deploy fiber to the western portion of the island. The main driver of this was simply that our customers told us they were interested in a wider set of services beyond voice - services that no other company was willing or able to provide.

While the island now has an advanced wireless network, we will soon begin building a fiber optic network that will enable state-of-the art wireline voice and broadband services. We expect to have the fiber network completed in time for the summer 2014 season. Residents of western Fire Island will now have the benefits of both our advanced wireless and fiber-optic networks.

As a result of this work year-round residents, summer rentals, and businesses will have the option of selecting our Voice Link service, traditional telephone service delivered over our fiber network, or FiOS Internet and Digital Voice for their Internet and voice calling needs.

We're actively communicating the details of our plans to our customers there and to local officials. And we're anxious to get started on the construction.

Make no mistake. At Verizon, our customers come first....every time.