STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2004-135

February 25, 2004

VERIZON MAINE
Petition for Consolidated Arbitration

NOTICE OF PROCEEDING

I. BACKGROUND

On February 20, 2004, Verizon Maine (Verizon) filed with the Commission a Petition for Consolidated Arbitration. (A copy of the Petition can be found on the Commission's website in the virtual casefile for this proceeding, http://mpuc.informe.org/) The Petition requests that the Commission arbitrate disputes between Verizon and competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) and Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) carriers relating to Verizon's October 2, 2003, proposed amendment to all interconnection agreements. Verizon contends that the proposed amendment implements requirements of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) *Triennial Review Order (TRO).* Verizon's cover letter states that it served a copy of the Petition on all affected parties.

II. PRELIMINARY PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The Commission has opened this proceeding to address Verizon's Petition pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(b)(1). This matter will be considered an adjudicatory proceeding under the Commission's Rules and, thus, *ex parte* rules apply. Verizon and all companies on the attached list (Verizon Petition, Exhibit 1) are hereby made parties to this proceeding. **All parties** must submit a letter **by March 5, 2004,** confirming their need to amend their interconnection agreement and their intent to participate in this proceeding. Each party should include in their letter the name, address, phone number, fax number and e-mail address of all persons to include on the service list. Each party should also list the names of all other states where they have interconnection agreements with Verizon.

Any other parties who wish to intervene in this proceeding must file a brief letter with Dennis Keschl, Administrative Director, Public Utilities Commission, 242 State Street, Station #18, Augusta, ME 04333 by **March 5, 2004,** indicating the party's interest in the proceeding and providing the name, address, phone number, fax number and e-mail address of all persons to include on the service list.

III. SCHEDULE

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(b)(3), parties may respond to a petition for arbitration within 25 days after the state commission receives the petition. Accordingly, all parties must file an initial response to the Petition no later than **March 16, 2004.** Each party **may** file a legal brief addressing any legal and/or policy issues raised by Verizon's Petition, including Verizon's interpretation of the requirements of the

Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the *TRO*. Each party **must** file a document which sets forth, **organized by individual paragraph number from Verizon's proposed amendment (Exhibit 2 to the Petition)**, the following information:

a. the specific language in the proposed amendment to which a party objects;
b. a brief explanation of the party's objection;
c. citation to the applicable section(s) of the FCC's rules and to any relevant paragraphs from the *TRO* not already cited by Verizon; and
d. reference to the relevant section(s) of the party's legal brief.

If a party does not object to a specific paragraph, it should note that fact in its filing. **Broad objections to every word of the proposed amendment will not be considered.** We expect that there will be many common issues among the responding carriers and encourage these parties to consolidate their filings and briefs, to the extent possible.

A case conference will be scheduled after the Commission has reviewed the initial responses.

BY ORDER OF THE HEARING EXAMINER

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Trina M. Bragdon