

Case 15-M-0647
Altice/Cablevision Transaction

Staff of the Department of Public Service
Interrogatory/Document Request

Request No.: DPS-25
Requested By: DPS Staff
Date of Request: December 17, 2015
Reply Date: December 28, 2015
Subject: Follow-up – WiFi Service

Cablevision’s response to DPS-1 indicates that all tiers of broadband service, “include free access to Cablevision’s network of more than 1.3 million Optimum WiFi hotspots. In addition, Cablevision customers can access WiFi hotspots at no additional charge made available by members of the Cable WiFi consortium, which includes Comcast and Time Warner Cable in New York.”

Provide a breakout of the 1.3 million WiFi hotspots, to include specific numbers and categories/types of each, such as:

- Outdoor public router locations
- Small, medium, large business router locations
- “Dual SSID” residential router locations
- Other router locations

Provide a regional breakdown (NYC, Greater Hudson Valley, and Long Island) of WiFi hotspot connections, similarly as the company provided for broadband connections in DPS-1. Indicate typical range (distance) over which WiFi hotspots provide effective service for general public users. Provide an approximate number of additional WiFi hotspots that Cablevision customers can access in New York via membership in the Cable WiFi consortium.

Respondent Name (witness or panel): _____ Date: _____

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Request No.: DPS-26
Requested By: DPS Staff
Date of Request: December 17, 2015
Reply Date: December 28, 2015
Subject: Follow-up – 1 Gbps Test Service

Cablevision's response to DPS-1 indicates that it recently began testing a 1 Gbps service through a bulk sale offering to a small number of multiple dwelling unit buildings on Long Island. Provide additional information on the municipal location(s) of the 1 Gbps service area, and describe in more detail the architecture (e.g., HFC, FTTP) of the network providing the service, upload/download speed combinations available over the test network. Indicate if any other advanced communications test areas are in progress or planned.

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Request No.: DPS-27
Requested By: DPS Staff
Date of Request: December 17, 2015
Reply Date: December 28, 2015
Subject: Follow-up – Unserved Areas

Cablevision’s response to DPS-9 includes a list, Exhibit 9-B, that estimated unserved homes in certain franchise areas. Supplement this list to indicate what percentage of total homes in the franchise area (both served and unserved) these unserved homes represents, and the amount of outside plant estimated necessary to be constructed to serve the homes listed. The exhibit data indicates that the top nine listed municipalities, in terms of raw numbers, represents over 90% of the total estimated unserved homes in all of the company’s identified municipalities with unserved homes. Given the company’s awareness of such a large percentage of unserved homes being located in relatively few franchise areas, provide supplemental information as to considerations for focused construction projects to pass the bulk of the identified unserved homes, which might then support the company’s claim in response to DPS-17, that, “As a practical matter, Cablevision’s network already basically spans its entire service region.”

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Request No.: DPS-28
Requested By: DPS Staff
Date of Request: December 17, 2015
Reply Date: December 28, 2015
Subject: Follow-up - Low Income Programs

Cablevision's response to DPS-10 did not indicate whether or not the company participates in the Connect2Compete program, although information on the FCC website, <https://www.fcc.gov/maps/connect-compete-home-broadband-coverage-map>, indicates that Cablevision is among various companies that participated in this program in the past. Provide current status of the company's participation in this program. If actively participating, include details of company milestones. If not currently active in the program, please indicate if the company has plans for future program participation.

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Request No.: DPS-29
Requested By: DPS Staff
Date of Request: December 17, 2015
Reply Date: December 28, 2015
Subject: Follow-up – Government Funded Broadband Expansion

Cablevision’s response to DPS-19 stated, “Cablevision has not participated in the broadband projects identified in this request, and has no current plans to do so.”

Given the company’s statements on page 10 of its public petition to the PSC that, “The proposed Transaction will enable the combined company to continue to increase broadband connectivity and WiFi service deployment, supporting the growth of over-the-top video services. As such, the proposed Transaction will enhance competition and spur pro-consumer innovation by enabling Cablevision to build on its position in the marketplace for wired and wireless broadband, video and voice services.”, and “For example, the Transaction will enable Altice to build on Cablevision’s network investment, consumer-focused products and services, and innovative approaches to video pricing and packaging. These benefits will positively reinforce the Commission’s long-standing efforts to promote competition and customer choice in the residential and business markets.”, explain why the company has not participated in any of the government funded broadband expansion projects, and has no current plans to do so.

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Request No.: DPS-30
Requested By: DPS Staff
Date of Request: December 17, 2015
Reply Date: December 28, 2015
Subject: Follow-up – prices for modem/routers

Cablevision’s response to DPS-7 indicates that Cablevision permits customers to use their own routers, but that use of a Cablevision-supplied router is included in the price for broadband service. This response also refers to the following webpage which lists the six modems that Cablevision makes available for purchase.
https://optimum.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/3832/kw/approved%20cable%20modems/
One of the six items on this list is a “Router\Modem”.

In addition, the rate cards provided in Exhibit 6A through 6MM of Cablevision’s response to DPS-6 include the following footnotes

- 13 Modem lease fee applies for all new modems provided by Optimum.
- 14 Router is free for life of account when Optimum Online is maintained.

Please indicate which of these rate card footnotes apply to the “Router/Modem” on the list referred to in the response to DPS-7.

Please list the make and model of Cablevision provided modems and routers, indicating for each whether the model is a modem, router, or combined router/modem. Also indicate if Cablevision has ever provided combined router/modems to customers which have had the router functionality disabled.

Please indicate whether customers who use their own routers are eligible to receive a discount for the price of Internet service, similar to the discount (or avoided rental fee) associated with a customer using a privately owned modem.

Please indicate whether customers are able to keep any free routers provided by Cablevision after their service has been terminated.

Please discuss whether routers and modems offered for sale by manufacturers are increasingly being bundled together in the same piece of equipment.

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Request No.: DPS-31
Requested By: DPS Staff
Date of Request: December 17, 2015
Reply Date: December 28, 2015
Subject: Emergency Services Networking

Does the company provide 9-1-1 trunking or other emergency services networking to any public safety answering points (PSAPs) in New York State? If so, state when the company first began providing this type of competitive service. Provide specific PSAP facilities locations and services currently active. Include a description of network redundancy configurations designed to minimize emergency services outages when primary trunking or equipment failures occur. Provide a list of any PSAP/emergency services network failures that have occurred since the company began offering such service, and include a summary of failure cause and outage duration. Also provide a general description of company response activities with respect to communications with PSAP managers, the media, and with local, state and federal governmental agencies.

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Request No.: DPS-32
Requested By: DPS Staff
Date of Request: December 17, 2015
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Subject: Line Extension Cost Estimates

For the years 2012 through 2015, provide one (1) line extension estimate per year, that the company has produced and provided to a requesting potential subscriber, in accordance with §895.5, “Requirements for construction of cable television plant and provision of cable television services”. Include all engineering and cost estimate work papers that resulted in each line extension cost estimate. Clearly identify all specific input values that were used in accordance with the contribution-in-aid-construction formula:

$$\frac{C}{LE} - \frac{CA}{P} = SC$$

Where:

C equals the cost of construction of new plant

CA equals the average cost of construction per mile in the primary service area

P equals the lower of 35 or the average number of dwelling units per linear mile of cable in areas described in subparagraphs (a)(1)(i) and (ii) of §895.5

LE equals the number of dwelling units requesting service in the line extension area

SC equals subscriber contribution-in-aid-of-construction in the line extension area

Include backing documentation detailing individual components of C (i.e., cable, hardware, devices; specify aerial or underground facilities); CA cost figure factors; and, any figures, including plant mileage and dwellings per mile, that were used to determine P value.

If the company has utilized an alternative formula to determine an estimated contribution-in-aid-of-construction charge, which formula being different than the formula set forth in §895.5, provide the comparative cost estimate using the Commission formula above to demonstrate that the company’s alternative formula does not result in a higher subscriber line extension contribution-in-aid-of-construction charge than would result from the use of the Commission formula, as specified in §895.5(b)(5)(ii).

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Request No.: DPS-33
Requested By: DPS Staff
Date of Request: December 17, 2015
Reply Date: December 28, 2015
Subject: Accessible Services

Does Cablevision currently offer any accessible services for the blind or visually impaired, such as accessible TV remotes? If so, provide details on such programs and services. If not, does the company have any plans to develop such accessibility for the blind or visually impaired served by its network following the transaction?

Respondent Name (witness or panel): _____ **Date:** _____