

STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 05-C-0616 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Examine Issues Related to the Transition to Intermodal Competition in the Provision of Telecommunications Services.

NOTICE OF EDUCATIONAL FORUMS AND PUBLIC  
STATEMENT HEARINGS ON THE COMMISSION'S  
EXAMINATION OF ISSUES RELATED TO THE  
COMPETITIVE PROVISION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

(Issued September 2, 2005)

The New York Public Service Commission will hold seven educational forums and public statement hearings concerning the Commission's broad examination of its telecommunications policies, practices, and rules in light of rapidly changing technology and competitive marketplace advances, including the emergence of internet and cable-based telephone services.<sup>1</sup> This proceeding may result in the adoption of policies designed to foster and encourage the delivery of the benefits of competitive markets to all telecommunications consumers, while ensuring that telecommunications services remain adequate, just, and reasonable. To help guide its decision-making process, the Commission is actively seeking the views of the public.

The educational forums and public statement hearings will be held as follows:

Binghamton

Wednesday, September 28, 2005  
City Hall/Council Chambers  
38 Hawley Street  
Binghamton, NY 13901-3776

Educational Forum: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Public Statement Hearing: Starting at 6:00 p.m.

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<sup>1</sup> Case 05-C-0616, Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Examine Issues Related to the Transition to Intermodal Competition in the Provision of Telecommunications Services, Order Initiating Proceeding and Inviting Comments (issued June 29, 2005).

Syracuse

Thursday, September 29, 2005  
City Hall/Council Chambers  
233 East Washington  
Syracuse, NY 13202

Educational Forum: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
Public Statement Hearing: Starting at 12:00 noon

Rochester

Thursday, September 29, 2005  
City Hall/Council Chambers  
30 Church Street  
Rochester, NY 14614

Educational Forum: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Public Statement Hearing: Starting at 6:00 p.m.

Lake Placid

Thursday, October 6, 2005  
Lussi Rink  
Olympic Center  
2634 Main Street  
Lake Placid, NY 12946

Educational Forum: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Public Statement Hearing: Starting at 5:00 p.m.

Albany

Tuesday, October 11, 2005  
Bethlehem Public Library/Community Room  
451 Delaware Avenue  
Delmar, NY 12054

Educational Forum: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Public Statement Hearing: Starting at 5:00 p.m.

New York City

Thursday, October 20, 2005  
The New York Public Library  
Mid-Manhattan Library  
455 Fifth Avenue (corner 40<sup>th</sup> St. and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.)  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
New York, New York 10016

Educational Forum: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Public Statement Hearing: Starting at 3:00 p.m.

Long Island

Friday, October 21, 2005  
William H. Rogers  
Legislative Building  
725 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Smithtown, New York 11787

Educational Forum: 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Public Statement Hearing: Starting at 11:30 a.m.

At each educational forum, Department of Public Service Staff will informally present and discuss the purpose of the Commission's examination, including a review of the questions posed by the Commission. Staff will also review the white paper it is preparing for the proceeding (currently scheduled for release September 21) and will answer questions. It is anticipated that the white paper will include Staff's recommendations regarding the future regulation of the industry. The white paper will be available on the Commission's web site once it is issued and copies will be available at the educational forums.

Following each forum, the public will have an opportunity to make comments at a hearing before Jeffrey E. Stockholm, the Administrative Law Judge assigned by the Commission to this case. A verbatim transcript of the hearing will be made for inclusion in the formal record of this proceeding.

It is not necessary to make an appointment in advance or to present written material in order to speak at the public statement hearings. Persons requesting time to speak will be asked to fill out a card and will be called in the order that the cards are received. The hearing will continue until everyone wishing to speak has been heard or other reasonable arrangements are made.

Disabled persons requiring special accommodations may place a collect call to the Department of Public Service's Human Resource Management Office at (518) 474-2520 as soon as possible. TDD users may request a sign language interpreter by placing a call through the New York Relay Service at 711 to

reach the Department of Public Service's Human Resource Office at the previously mentioned number.

Other Ways of Commenting

In addition to the formal hearing, comments (in English or Spanish) may be mailed to Jaclyn A. Brillings, Secretary, Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223-1350. Your comments should refer to "Case 05-C-0616 - Intermodal Competition".

**Toll-free Opinion Line:** Comments may also be submitted through the Commission's Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. This number is designed to take comments about pending cases from in-state callers, 24 hours a day. Callers should select English or Spanish and press "2" to leave comments about the proceeding.

**The Internet:** Comments may also be submitted via the "PSC Comment Form" in the "Consumer Assistance" file accessed through the Commission's Web site at <http://www.dps.state.ny.us>, or via the "Contact Us" link at <http://www.AskPSC.com>. Many libraries offer free Internet access.

All statements and comments received by the Administrative Law Judge and the Commission through any of these methods or as submitted by the active parties in the proceeding will be placed in the public case file and be available for public inspection at the Commission's offices, Central Files, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York.

Summary of Commission Examination

On June 29, 2005, the Commission announced that it was undertaking a reexamination of its telecommunications policies, practices and rules. The fast changing telecommunications environment, noted by the Commission, raises a number of questions regarding the widely varying regulation that is applied to a variety of competitors offering telecommunications services using a number of different technologies (also known as intermodal competition). The Commission indicated its intent, subject to consideration of the public interest and to the extent practicable, to eliminate these regulatory differences or

asymmetries by creating a level playing field for all telecommunication technologies, and to otherwise amend its policies and practices where required by the development of truly competitive markets. The Commission also expressed the view that its adherence to the statutory requirement of adequate, just, and reasonable telecommunications services would remain its paramount concern.

These matters are being heard in:

Case 05-C-0616 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Examine Issues Related to the Transition to Intermodal Competition in the Provision of Telecommunications Services.

JACLYN A. BRILLING  
Secretary