

STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

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March 28, 1997

**Honorable John Arcuri
Supervisor
Town of Deerfield
232 Ramblewood Dr.
Utica, NY 13502**

**RE: Town Deerfield
Oneida County
Case No. 97-V-0539**

Dear Supervisor Acuri:

The purpose of this letter is to remind you that your cable television franchise with Harron Cable-Utica expires March 9, 2000 and that the renewal process must be completed by the expiration date of the franchise.

The Federal Communications Policy Act of 1984 and the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 established a procedure for franchise renewals. The renewal process provides an important opportunity to review your franchise and make any changes which the parties deem necessary or desirable. Extension of service to additional areas, municipal franchise fees, community programming and additional services are examples of provisions that may require update or modification. Your franchise should also be reviewed for compliance with current state and federal regulations.

Please be advised that, as of July 1, 1996, all municipalities and cable companies having cable television franchises expiring July 1, 1999 or later will be required to complete their renewal procedures by the expiration date of the franchise. Municipal Assistance Section staff will no

longer advise the Commission to issue extensions in the form of Temporary Operating Authorities (TOAs) for franchises expiring after July 1, 1999.

The practice of granting TOAs originally was devised as a means to guarantee the continuation of service and the protection of existing franchise provisions under circumstances where the municipality and cable company needed an additional brief period of time to complete the renewal process. With Federal renewal procedures guaranteeing a notice of intent to renew to municipalities at least two and a half years prior to expiration, ample notice and time exists for both parties to complete a renewal agreement before an existing agreement expires.

The Municipal Assistance staff of the Communications Division is available to you free of charge for assistance and consultation during the franchise renewal process to insure timely completion. I will follow up this letter with a telephone call in a couple of weeks to discuss renewals in more detail.

In the interim, if I may be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Sincerely,



Thomas Isabella
Sr. Municipal Consultant