



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND CABLE

D.T.C. 13-4

May 23, 2013

Investigation by the Department on its Own Motion into the Implementation in Massachusetts of the Federal Communications Commission's Order Reforming the Lifeline Program

HEARING OFFICER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NOTICE OF INTERVENTION AND APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL

On April 1, 2013, the Department of Telecommunications and Cable ("Department") issued an Order Opening Investigation in this proceeding. In light of the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") *Lifeline Reform Order*¹ reforming the Lifeline program, the Department is investigating the implementation of the FCC's Lifeline reforms in Massachusetts and any Department requirements necessary to implement these reforms, advance universal service, and safeguard the federal universal service fund against waste, fraud, and abuse.

On May 7, 2013, the Department granted leave to intervene in this proceeding to Budget PrePay, Inc., d/b/a Budget Mobile; Granby Telephone, LLC, d/b/a OTT Communications; T-Mobile USA, Inc.; TracFone Wireless, Inc.; Virgin Mobile USA, L.P.; Verizon New England, Inc., d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts; and YourTel America, Inc. The Department also granted limited participation status to Nexus Communications, Inc., and the National Consumer Law Center.

On May 13, 2013, the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("Attorney General"), Martha Coakley, filed a Notice of Intervention pursuant to M.G.L. c. 12, § 11E, and an Appearance of Counsel for Assistant Attorney General Sandra E. Merrick with the Department. Under M.G.L. c. 12, § 11E, the Attorney General may intervene as of right in administrative, regulatory, or judicial proceedings on behalf of any group of consumers in connection with any matter involving rates, charges, prices, and tariffs of a telephone company doing business in Massachusetts and subject to the jurisdiction of the Department. Under its procedural rules, the Department may also grant leave to intervene to parties who are substantively and specifically affected by the proceeding. 220 C.M.R. § 1.03(1)(b).

¹ *Lifeline & Link Up Reform & Modernization*, WC Docket No. 11-42, *Rep. & Order & Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, FCC 12-11 (rel. Feb. 6, 2012).

No party to this proceeding has opposed the Attorney General's Notice of Intervention.

The Department hereby acknowledges receipt of the Attorney General's Notice of Intervention and enters appearance of Assistant Attorney General Sandra E. Merrick on her behalf. The Department also notes that the Attorney General, in her role as consumer advocate, is substantively and specifically affected by this proceeding.

Betsy S. Whittey
Hearing Officer

Sean M. Carroll
Hearing Officer

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Under the provisions of 220 C.M.R. § 1.06(d)(3), any aggrieved party may appeal this Ruling to the Commissioner by filing a written appeal with supporting documentation within five (5) days of this Ruling. A copy of this Ruling must accompany any appeal. A written response to any appeal must be filed within two (2) days of the appeal.