



## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND CABLE

D.T.C. 14-1

October 22, 2014

Petition of CoxCom, Inc. d/b/a Cox Communications to establish and adjust the basic service tier programming, equipment, and installation rates for the Town of Holland

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### INFORMATION REQUESTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND CABLE TO COXCOM, INC. D/B/A COX COMMUNICATIONS

Pursuant to 801 C.M.R. §§ 1.01(10)(k)(2), the Department of Telecommunications and Cable ("Department") reopens the record and submits to CoxCom, Inc. d/b/a Cox Communications ("Cox") the following information requests.

#### Instructions

1. Each request should be answered in writing on a separate page with a recitation of the request, a reference to the request number, the docket number of the case, and the name of the person responsible for the answer.
2. These requests shall be deemed continuing so as to require further supplemental responses if Cox or its witness(es) receives or generates additional information within the scope of these requests between the time of the original response and the close of the record in this proceeding.
3. The term "Horan Letter" refers to a letter from Amy Horan, Government Relations Manager, Cox Communications, Northeast Region, to Catrice Williams, Department Secretary, dated September 24, 2014, and received by the Department on October 2, 2014.
4. The term "§ 76.923(o) Letter" refers to a filing submitted by Attorney Alan Mandl on behalf of Cox to Catrice Williams, Department Secretary, dated September 30, 2014, and received by the Department on October 2, 2014.
5. The term "DTA" refers to a "digital transport adapter" and the new Mini Box equipment option that will be offered by Cox.
6. If any one of these requests is ambiguous, notify the Department so that the request may be clarified prior to the preparation of a written response.

7. File an original and three copies of the responses with Catrice C. Williams, Secretary of the Department, not later than **October 29, 2014**.

### Requests

- D.T.C. 1-1      The Horan Letter states that Cox “will begin incrementally transitioning away from dual carriage of channels in an analog and digital format, carrying them only in a single digital format” beginning in January 2015, and that Cox intends to encrypt its basic service tier.
- a. Please provide the specific transition date to the single digital format for Cox’s analog customers in the Town of Holland, Massachusetts (“Holland”).
  - b. Please provide the specific date on which Cox will encrypt its basic service tier offered in Holland.
- D.T.C. 1-2      The Horan Letter states that the new DTA “will be the primary piece of equipment [that] Cox will make available to analog only customers” starting on November 10, 2014, and that monthly pricing will be \$1.99 per DTA. In contrast, the § 76.923(o) Letter indicates that only new analog customers will be assessed \$1.99 per DTA, effective December 1, 2014; that existing Limited Basic (Starter) customers will receive two DTAs at no charge for two years; and that existing Expanding Basic (Essential) customers will receive two DTAs at no charge for one year. The § 76.923(o) Letter also indicates that the new DTA “will be required for current analog customers [...] in order to receive the cable programming lineup after Cox goes all digital.”
- a. Please provide the specific date on which Cox will offer the new DTAs to its Holland customers and the date on which Cox will begin assessing the \$1.99 fee on new customers.
  - b. Please state whether Cox will continue to offer a non-addressable converter to basic-only customers at no charge pending the anticipated transition.
  - c. Please state whether Cox will continue to offer a cableCARD option to its Holland customers.
  - d. Please define “new” customer and clarify whether this term includes existing customers that opt to change service tiers.
  - e. Please submit a revised Proposed Rate Structure accounting for the new equipment and specify the effective dates of the \$1.99 rate for new customers and existing customers.
  - f. Please provide the number of Holland customers by service tier as of October 1, 2014.

- g. Please provide the number of new Holland customers enrolled by Cox in each calendar year, beginning January 1, 2010, and ending October 1, 2014.

D.T.C. 1-3 Neither the Horan Letter nor the § 76.923(o) Letter provide information on possible changes to channel line-ups or samples of notices that Cox intends to provide to its affected Holland customers or Holland.

- a. Please state whether there will be any revisions to the channel line-ups being offered by Cox in Holland.
- b. Please state the amount of notice that Holland customers and Holland will receive from Cox.
- c. Please submit a copy of the notice that Holland will receive from Cox.
- d. Please submit a sample customer letter that Holland customers will receive from Cox.

D.T.C. 1-4 Federal rules require that existing basic service tier subscribers receiving Medicaid should receive equipment for up to two television sets at no charge for five years if, at the time of encryption, they do not use a set-top box or cableCARD. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 76.630(a)(1)(iv).

- a. Please indicate the number of Medicaid recipients in Holland affected by Cox's transition to a single digital format and encryption of its basic service tier.
- b. Please state how Cox will determine whether its Holland customers are Medicaid recipients at the time of encryption.

D.T.C. 1-5 Attached to the § 76.923(o) Letter is a revised FCC Form 1205 that reports DTA-related information.

- a. Please provide a copy of the FCC Form 1205 Instructions used by Cox in preparation of its FCC Form 1205.
- b. Please explain why Cox reports one DTA unit in service on Schedule C, Line C, as of fiscal year 2012 even though it will not offer DTAs until late 2014.
- c. Please explain the accounting treatment that Cox is employing for the new DTA device. Specifically:
  - (i) Specify the number of years of depreciable life that Cox assigns to the DTA;
  - (ii) Specify the method of depreciation used by Cox for the DTA; and

- (iii) Explain the calculations for the Depreciation amounts reported on Schedule C, Lines E and J.
  
- d. Cox reports \$2.0276 for the Permitted Charge and \$1.99 for the Actual Charge on Line 4 of the Summary Schedule. This varies from the Actual and Permitted Charges reported by Cox on Line 4 of the Summary Schedule earlier this year. Please explain this difference in reported charges.