COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Telecommunications and Cable

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UNDERSECRETARY

KAREN CHARLES PETERSON
COMMISSIONER

January 23, 2015

RE: Petition of Comcast Cable Communications, LLC to establish and adjust the basic service tier programming, equipment, and installation rates for the communities in Massachusetts served by Comcast Cable Communications, LLC that are currently subject to rate regulation, D.T.C. 14-4.

Dear Issuing Authority:

The Department of Telecommunications and Cable ("Department") will hold a public and evidentiary hearing, pursuant to G.L. c. 166A, § 15 and 207 C.M.R. § 6.03, to investigate the proposed basic service tier programming, equipment, and installation rates for all of the rate regulated communities in Massachusetts served by Comcast Cable Communications, LLC ("Comcast"), in response to its filings. The hearing will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, April 22, 2015, in Room 1E at 1000 Washington Street, Boston, Massachusetts, and is a formal hearing conducted under G.L. c. 30A and 801 C.M.R. § 1.00 *et seq.* of the Standard Adjudicatory Rules of Practice and Procedure. Comcast, as the cable operator serving your community, is required to arrange for notice of the hearing, both by newspaper publication and by cablecasting. G.L. c. 166A, § 15; 207 C.M.R. § 6.05; 207 C.M.R. § 2.02. The proceeding is docketed as D.T.C. 14-4. A copy of the hearing notice that was provided to Comcast for publication is enclosed for informational purposes.

As the issuing authority for a municipality served by Comcast, you may want to participate in this hearing. Please note that under Massachusetts regulations, issuing authorities are not automatically parties to rate proceedings. 801 C.M.R. § 1.01(9). While our proceedings allow for full public input from all interested persons, an interested person may participate as a party only if the person files a petition to intervene and such petition is subsequently granted by the Department. *Id.* The petition to intervene must state with specificity how the petitioner is substantially and specifically affected by the rate proceeding. *Id.*

An issuing authority that is granted party status has the right to participate fully in the proceeding, including the right to cross-examine the cable operator's witnesses at the hearing, the right to receive all correspondence and documents provided by the cable operator to the Department, and the right to appeal the Department's Rate Order. 801 C.M.R. §§ 1.01(5)(f); 1.01(10)(f); 1.01(13). An intervenor is also allowed to participate in discovery. 801 C.M.R. § 1.01(8)(a). For example, the intervenor may submit to the cable operator prior to the hearing written questions related to the rate proceeding, which the cable operator is required to answer. A party that wishes to intervene must file its petition to intervene with the Department by 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, April 8, 2015.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the hearing procedures, please contact me at michael.scott@state.ma.us or (617) 368-1114.

Sincerely,

Michael Scott
Hearing Officer