

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

Letter from Verizon-Maine (Donald W. Boecke, Assistant General Counsel) to Trina Bragdon, Esq., Hearing Examiner State of Maine, Public Utilities Commission (dated 3/9/04, 2 pages)

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**THIS IS A VIRTUAL DUPLICATE OF THE ORIGINAL HARDCOPY SUBMITTED TO  
THE COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS ELECTRONIC FILING  
INSTRUCTIONS**

Trina Bragdon, Esq., Hearing Examiner  
State of Maine, Public Utilities Commission  
242 State Street, State House Station 18  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0018

RE: VERIZON MAINE, Petition for Consolidated Arbitration  
Docket No. 2004-135

Dear Trina:

In variously-styled filings made March 5, 2004, several CLECs have: (a) questioned the necessity of proposed contract amendments (Lincolnville); (b) moved to dismiss this proceeding (CLEC Coalition); (c) concurred in the Motion to Dismiss (GWI, SOI); (d) issued discovery (CLEC Coalition); (e) argued that arbitration is no longer timely in light of the recent DC Circuit decision in *USTA v FCC* and; (f) challenged Verizon's cost support for certain proposed rates. To address each of these claims efficiently in the time allowed by law for concluding this arbitration, Verizon Maine submits the following proposal for a procedural schedule:

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>
March 19	Verizon to file changes in the proposed contract amendments that are appropriate in light of D.C. Circuit's order. CLECs afforded 25 days to respond.
March 26	Verizon responds to Motion to Dismiss/Objections or Answers to discovery.

- April 13      CLECs may respond to the Petition, including any revisions made March 19 by Verizon Maine, except for cost issues.
- April 30      Verizon files cost studies for all new rates in the proposed amendments.
- May 25      CLECs respond to cost study.

The schedule for the remainder of the arbitration would be determined based on the issues raised by the CLECs' response.

Verizon Maine recognizes that acceptance of the foregoing proposed schedule presents a challenge to complete the arbitration within the nine months (from the October 2, 2003 date of the initial request to negotiate) as specified in Section 252 (b)(4)(C). Accordingly, Verizon Maine consents to an enlargement of the Commission's time to resolve this case sufficient to accommodate Verizon's foregoing request.

Very truly yours,

Donald W. Boecke

Cc: All Parties (via e-mail)