

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Investigation By The Department On Its Own Motion, Pursuant To G. L. c. 159 §§ 12 and 16, Into The COLLOCATION SECURITY Policies Of VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC., d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts

**Docket No. DTE 02-8**

**UNIONS' COMMENT ON  
MOTION  
TO SUSPEND LITIGATION AND  
CREATE INDUSTRY TASK FORCE**

Intervenor T-6 Council, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and its affiliate Local Unions 2222, 2313, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, and 2327 (“the Unions”) submits this brief Comment in response to the pending Motion To Suspend Litigation and To Create An Industry Task Force, filed by six CLEC’s who are parties to this proceeding.

As set forth in their Motion To Intervene in this matter, the Unions represent approximately fifteen thousand (15,000) employees of Verizon New England, Inc. (“Verizon” or “the Company”) throughout the New England states, approximately eleven thousand five hundred (11,500) of whom are employed in Massachusetts by Verizon New England, Inc., d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts. The Unions represent, among others, employees who work in central offices and other facilities where the Company, as the region’s ILEC, is required to and does provide collocation facilities to CLEC’s and other third parties.

This Investigation purports to 1) review the Department of Telecommunications and Energy's ("DTE's") findings with respect to access by personnel of other carriers to Verizon's central offices and other facilities, 2) assess the security measures in place to protect those facilities, and 3) to determine, through the presentation of evidence, which policies, if any, should be strengthened to safeguard telecommunications networks from tampering and thereby to ensure reliable telecommunications service to the citizens of Massachusetts. DTE 02-8. The investigation and hearings purport to address, without limitation, "(1) the extent and nature of appropriate access by personnel of other carriers to Verizon's central offices and other facilities for accessing collocation sites; (2) whether cageless collocation arrangements remain an acceptable security risk; (3) the adequacy of security measures implemented in Verizon's central offices and other facilities, focusing on preventive, rather than "after-the-fact," measures; and (4) any other related security issues." *Id.*

With respect to the pending Motion, it is the Unions' view that continuing on the course set out by the Department likely represents the most efficient and comprehensive vehicle for generating information necessary to develop analyses and strategies pertinent to maximizing security at collocation sites. That is not to say that cooperative efforts at settlement should not be undertaken. However, under no circumstances should the Unions, as parties to this Investigation, be excluded from receiving information about or participating in discussions concerning possible modifications in collocation environments. The Unions are

particularly concerned that, should the litigation be stayed in favor of an industry task force, the representatives of thousands of affected workers may lose their voice, as Verizon itself already has intimated an intention to exclude the Unions from discussions outside the scope of this Investigation. See, Verizon Massachusetts' Reply To Motion To Suspend, at 2 ("Verizon does not oppose undertaking settlement discussions with all parties (i.e., carriers and the Attorney General) to determine whether there may be common ground on issues raised by this proceeding and to attempt to resolve or further narrow some issues." (Emphasis added). Conspicuously omitted from Verizon's definition of "all parties" are the Unions that represent over eleven thousand of its workers in Massachusetts.

The Intervenor Unions have independent concerns for the safety and protection of their members. By granting the Unions Intervenor status in this Investigation, the Department has made the Unions parties to this proceeding, has acknowledged that the Unions, and the thousands of employees they represent, are "interested persons who are substantially and specifically affected by the issues under investigation ... in the above-captioned proceeding," 220 CMR 1.03, and further, it is hoped, recognized that the Unions have unique and irreplaceable knowledge and information to bring to bear to the proceedings.

Accordingly, the Unions oppose the Motion to Suspend the Proceedings, but in the event the Department grants the Motion, would request an Order that the Unions hold a seat on any task force as is created.

Respectfully Submitted,

**T-6 COUNCIL, INTERNATIONAL  
BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL  
WORKERS, AFL-CIO, and its LOCAL  
UNIONS 2222, 2313, 2320, 2321, 2322,  
2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, and 2327,**

**Petitioners,**

By Their Attorneys,

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Date: May 2, 2002

**Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that on May 2, 2002, I caused a copy of the foregoing Comment to be served by e-mail and 1<sup>st</sup> class mail, postage prepaid, on all parties on the Service List of this matter.

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Betsy Ehrenberg

