

In the Matter of AT&T Broadband MediaOne of Massachusetts, Inc.

## MediaOne Enterprises, Inc.

MediaOne of Brockton, Inc.

MediaOne of Milton, Inc.

MediaOne of Needham, Inc.

MediaOne of Ohio, Inc.

MediaOne of Southern New England, Inc.

MediaOne of Virginia, Inc.

MediaOne of Western New England, Inc.

all d/b/a AT&T Broadband

For a Determination of Cable Television Rates

Acushnet Agawam Amherst Andover Ashland Attleboro Avon Barnstable Bellingham Berklev Bernardston Beverly Billerica Blackstone Boxford Bridgewater Brockton Buckland Burlington Cambridge Canton Chatham Chelmsford Chelsea Chester Clinton Cohasset Conway Dartmouth Dedham Deerfield Dennis Dighton Dover Dracut East Bridgewater Eastham Easton Erving Everett Fairhaven

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Middleborough Middleton Milford Millis Milton Monson Montague Nahant Nantucket Natick Needham New Bedford Newbury Norfolk North Andover North Attleborough North Reading Northampton Northfield Norton Norwell Orleans Palmer Pelham Phillipston Plainville Provincetown Quincy Randolph Raynham Reading Rehoboth Revere Rochester Rowley Salem Saugus Scituate Seekonk Sharon Shelburne

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## **RATE ORDER ON REMAND**

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS REGULATION

## DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY Cable Television Division

Docket No. CTV 01-1/01-3 Date Issued: July 7. 2003 AT&T Broadband, CTV 01-1/01-3 July 7, 2003

APPEARANCES: Warren O. Fitting Director of Rate Regulation Comcast Cable Corporation 1500 Market Street, 32<sup>nd</sup> Floor Philadelphia, PA 19102-2148

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Jerry McMahon Chairman, Cable Advisory Committee 33 Green Way Yarmouth, MA 02664 FOR: THE TOWN OF YARMOUTH Limited Participant This Rate Order on Remand is issued by the Cable Television Division ("Cable Division") of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy in compliance with a decision issued by the Media Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") relating to FCC Forms 1240 filed by MediaOne of Massachusetts, Inc., MediaOne Enterprises, Inc., MediaOne of Brockton, Inc., MediaOne of Milton, Inc., MediaOne of Needham, Inc., MediaOne of Southern New England, Inc., MediaOne of Virginia, Inc., and MediaOne of Western New England, Inc., collectively offering services as AT&T Broadband ("AT&T Broadband").<sup>1</sup> See AT&T Broadband, DA 03-1863 (released June 2, 2003).

On February 28, 2002, the Cable Division issued a Rate Order ("2002 Rate Order") for the projected period from July 1, 2001, to June 30, 2002. In the 2002 Rate Order, we determined that the Company had not calculated and reported its true-up amount for the projected period in compliance with applicable law. Specifically, we found that contrary to the plain meaning of the instructions to the FCC Form 1240, AT&T Broadband included in the true-up claimed for the projected period amounts that were not passed through to subscribers. 2002 Rate Order at 8-9. As such, we ordered AT&T Broadband to refile its FCC Forms 1240 for the affected communities. <u>Id.</u> at 10.

The Company filed revised FCC Forms 1240 on March 21, 2002, as required by the 2002 Rate Order. <u>See</u> Order Accepting Compliance Filing, CTV 01-1/01-3 (March 21, 2002). Further, on March 29, 2002, AT&T Broadband appealed the 2002 Rate Order to the Media Bureau of the FCC. Because of the pending appeal, the Cable Division did not require the Company to implement the BST MPR as calculated on the Compliance filing.

The Media Bureau of the FCC has now determined that it is in keeping with the Communications Act of 1934, as amended ("Cable Act") to permit cable operators to claim true-up amounts regardless of whether they are passed through to subscribers. <u>AT&T Broadband</u> at ¶ 11. The Cable Division, as the franchising authority authorized to regulate rates in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, is required to comply with FCC decisions. Therefore, the Cable Division hereby rescinds Section III.F. of the 2002 Rate Order; the 2002 Rate Order stands in all other respects. Because the Company was not required by the Cable Division to implement its FCC Forms 1240 revised in accordance with the 2002 Rate Order for the affected communities, no further action is needed on CTV 01-1/01-3.

With respect to the subsequent period's rate filing, the Cable Division, on February 19, 2003, approved AT&T Broadband's FCC Forms 1240 docketed as CTV 02-2 ("2003 Rate Order"). The 2002 Rate Order was on appeal with the FCC, and the Media

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> During the pendency of this rate proceeding, on November 18, 2002, AT&T Broadband merged with Comcast Cable Communications, Inc.. Because the Rate Order in this proceeding was issued while the company was operating under the name "AT&T Broadband," we will continue to use that name in this Rate Order On Remand.

Bureau had ruled against the Cable Division in a similar issue. <u>See CoxCom, Inc.</u>, DA 02-967 (released April 29, 2002). Thus, the Cable Division required that the Company, in addition to filing the FCC Forms 1240 using its preferred methodology, file a second set complying with the requirements set forth by the Cable Division in the 2002 Rate Order. In its 2003 Rate Order, the Cable Division ordered that in the event the Media Bureau of the FCC upheld the Cable Division's 2002 Rate Order, the Company would need to implement the alternative rates as calculated in its Compliance Filing. Because the FCC has now determined that the Company's methodology is in keeping with the Cable Act and FCC precedent, no further action is required on CTV 02-2.

By Order of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy Cable Television Division

> /s/ Alicia C. Matthews Alicia C. Matthews Director