



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Telecommunications and Cable

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KAREN CHARLES PETERSON
COMMISSIONER

August 11, 2020

Bettina Schmidt
Chair, Board of Selectmen
Town of Holland
27 Sturbridge Road
Holland, MA 01521

RE: Petition of CoxCom, LLC d/b/a Cox Communications New England to establish and adjust the equipment and installation rates for the Town of Holland, D.T.C. 19-6.

Dear Chair Schmidt:

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 equipment and installation rates proposed by CoxCom, LLC d/b/a Cox Communications New England ("Cox") for Holland, MA, in response to its filings. The hearing will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday October 7, 2020 via telephone. The hearing is a formal hearing conducted under G.L. c. 30A and 207 C.M.R. § 1.00. Cox, as the cable operator serving Holland, is required to arrange for notice of the hearing, both by newspaper publication and by cablecasting. G.L. c. 166A, § 15 and 207 C.M.R. § 1.06(5). The proceeding is docketed as D.T.C. 19-6. A copy of the hearing notice that was provided to Cox for publication is enclosed for informational purposes.

As the issuing authority for Holland, you may want to participate in this hearing. Please note that under Massachusetts regulations, issuing authorities are not automatic parties to rate proceedings. 207 C.M.R. § 1.03(1). While our proceedings allow for full public input from all interested persons, an interested person may participate as a party only if it 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 intervention 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.

An intervenor is also allowed to participate in discovery. 207 C.M.R. § 1.06(6)(c). For example, the intervenor may submit written questions related to the rate proceeding to the cable operator prior to the hearing, which the cable operator is required to answer. If the Town of Holland wishes to intervene, it must file its petition to intervene with the Department not later than the close of business on Wednesday September 23, 2020.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the hearing procedures, please contact me at William.Bendetson@mass.gov or (617) 368-1124.

Sincerely,

/s/ William Bendetson

William Bendetson
Hearing Officer

Enclosure