

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS REGULATION

DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY Cable Television Division

In the Matter of)
MediaOne of Massachusetts, Inc., AT&T Corp., and AT&T Comcast Corporation) Docket No. CTV 02-10
Appellants)) Date Issued: August 7, 2002
v.)
City Manager of the City of Cambridge)))
Appellee)))

INTERLOCUTORY ORDER ON MOTION FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING, STIPULATION, AND PRELIMINARY GROUND RULES

On June 28, 2002, the City Manager of the City of Cambridge ("City") voted to withhold approval of a request by MediaOne of Massachusetts, Inc., AT&T Corp., and AT&T Comcast Corporation ("Companies") to transfer the control of the cable license with the City. Pursuant to G.L. c. 166A §§ 7 and 14, the Companies filed a Petition for Appeal and Claim for Adjudicatory Hearing ("Appeal") with the Cable Television Division ("Cable Division") on July 25, 2002. On the same date, the Companies filed a Motion for Expedited Processing of Appeal and a Motion for Summary Decision. On August 6, 2002, the City and the Companies filed a stipulation that Appellee's Reply to the Motion for Summary Decision may be filed concurrently with Appellee's Reply to the Appeal.

Federal law allows a 120-day period for issuing authorities to review a transfer application. 47 U.S.C. § 537. A protracted review of such a decision would violate the spirit of the federal law. However, we must ensure that all parties' rights to due process are protected. In ruling on Appellants' Motion for Expedited Processing, we balance these considerations, and thus plan to proceed expeditiously, requiring a showing of good cause for any deviation of the procedural schedule. To this end, we have attached Preliminary Ground Rules to be adhered to by all parties.

With respect to the Stipulation, we note that it was submitted five days after a response to Appellants' Motions was due. While we encourage parties to negotiate to reach mutual resolution of issues in this proceeding, we expect timely submissions. We further require that any requests for deviation from any of the procedural rules be submitted in advance of such deviation. Although the Stipulation was not timely filed, we find that the content of the Stipulation as presented by the parties is appropriate and will assist in maintaining an efficient and expeditious process.

Parties are hereby placed on notice of the Cable Division's intent to conduct a procedural conference in this matter on or about August 27, 2002. Parties should confer with one another and contact the Cable Division with alternate dates if necessary.

Accordingly, after due consideration, it is

ORDERED: Appellants' Motion for Expedited Processing filed in CTV 02-10 is hereby GRANTED to the extent deemed appropriate; and it is

<u>FURTHER ORDERED</u>: Appellants' and Appellee's Stipulation filed in CTV 02-10 is hereby GRANTED and Appellee's Reply to Appellants' Motion for Summary Decision and Appellee's Reply to the Appeal shall be filed concurrently, with both documents being served on all parties **by or on August 15, 2002**; and it is

<u>FURTHER ORDERED</u>: The parties must comply with the attached Preliminary Ground Rules.

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

Alicia C. Matthews Director