

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

IN THE MATTER OF THE TARIFF FILING BY)
VERIZON DELAWARE LLC TO MAKE)
REVISIONS TO ITS LIFELINE TARIFF TO)
COMPLY WITH THE FCC'S ORDER ON) PSC DOCKET NO. 12-004T
LIFELINE (FCC-12-11) RELEASED)
FEBRUARY 6, 2012)
(FILED JUNE 5, 2012))

ORDER NO. 8192

AND NOW, this 17th day of July 2012;

WHEREAS, Lifeline is a program designed to promote connection to the telephone network by providing a discount on local service charges for qualified low-income customers; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") required in its FCC 12-11 Order¹ (the "Lifeline Reform Order") that (i) all Lifeline customers be recertified annually and (ii) the Lifeline discount will be a uniform rate of \$9.25, effective August 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the matter of the effective date of this change was subject to some uncertainty after the United States Telecom Association and other telephone trade associations on March 9, 2012, petitioned the FCC to extend the effective dates to October 1, 2012, for certain portions of the FCC's rules in the Lifeline Reform Order; and

¹ Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al., WC Docket No.11-42, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 12-11 (rel. Feb. 6, 2012).

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2012 the FCC issued a Public Notice that had the effect of delaying a portion of the requirements of the Lifeline Reform Order; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2012, Verizon Delaware LLC filed with the Public Service Commission ("Commission") proposed tariff revisions to reflect changes to comply with the FCC's Lifeline Reform Order; and

WHEREAS, Verizon Delaware LLC requests an effective date for the tariff revision of August 1, 2012, which is fifty-six (56) days after its proposed tariff revisions were filed with the Commission, in order to allow Verizon Delaware LLC to comply with the Lifeline Reform Order; and

WHEREAS, Verizon Delaware LLC requests a waiver of the statutory requirement of 60-days' notice for tariff changes,² citing the uncertainty over the effective date of this portion of the FCC's Lifeline Reform Order and the need to comply with this change in the FCC's Lifeline rules expeditiously as reasons for its failure to provide the required 60 days' notice; and

WHEREAS, Commission Staff, in its memorandum dated July 12, 2012, recommends that the Commission approve the waiver request and the tariff changes; and

WHEREAS, for the reasons provided by Verizon Delaware LLC, the Commission finds "good cause" to waive the 60-day notice requirement, as required by 26 *Del. C.* §304(a) and 26 *Del. Admin. C.* §§4003-3.5.1.7

² 26 *Del. C.* §304(a); see also 26 *Del. Admin. C.* §§4003-3.5.1.7 and 3.5.1.8.

and 3.5.1.8, and will grant the requested tariff changes, effective August 1, 2012;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED BY THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE
OF NOT FEWER THAN THREE COMMISSIONERS:**

1. That the Commission hereby grants a waiver of the 60-day notice requirement under 26 *Del. C.* §304(a) to Verizon Delaware LLC for its tariff filing made on June 5, 2012, regarding Verizon Delaware LLC's Lifeline program.

2. That the Commission hereby grants the request made by Verizon Delaware LLC's for a tariff change to reflect the Federal Communication Commission's Order dated February 6, 2012, regarding the Lifeline program (FCC-12-11).

3. That the Commission reserves jurisdiction and authority to enter such further Orders in this docket as may be deemed necessary or proper.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

/s/ Dallas Winslow
Chair

/s/ Joann T. Conaway
Commissioner

/s/ Jaymes B. Lester
Commissioner

/s/ Jeffrey J. Clark
Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:

/s/ Alisa Carrow Bentley
Secretary