IN THE MATTER OF THE RULES FOR THE PROVISION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES
(REG. DKT 10 OPENED MAY 1, 1984; PSC REGULATION DOCKET NO. 10 AND 45
REG. DKT 45 OPENED NOVEMBER 21, 1995;
JOINTLY REOPENED NOVEMBER 17, 1998;
JULY 24, 2001; AUGUST 9, 2005;
NOVEMBER 5, 2013; MAY 13, 2014;
AUGUST 19, 2014 AND DECEMBER 5, 2019)

IN THE MATTER OF THE REGULATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT ACT
(OPENED JULY 20, 1993; REOPENED DECEMBER 5, 2019)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION’S RULES FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS

TO: ALL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS, ALL CONSUMERS, AND OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

As a result of the cancellation of its regular meeting scheduled for February 26, 2020, the Delaware Public Service Commission (“Commission”) is re-posting this public notice to move the date for the hearing in this matter from February 26, 2020, to March 18, 2020, and to extend the deadline for public comment until April 3, 2020.

In April 2019, the role of the Delaware Public Service Commission (“Commission”) with respect to landline telecommunications regulation changed with the passage of Senate Bill No. 18 (“SB 18”). (The Commission does not regulate wireless or voice over internet services.) Among other things, SB 18 amended Title 26 of the Delaware Code by removing certain statutory
requirements for Commission-regulated telecommunications service providers that are no longer consistent with recent decisions of the Federal Communications Commission, including significant changes to the Telecommunications Technology Investment Act ("TTIA") (See 26 Del. C. §§ 215, 704-707).

Generally, telecommunications services provided over landlines fall into two categories: (1) "Basic Services," which the Commission regulates for price and quality of service; and (2) "Competitive Services," which the Commission does not regulate, other than to certify new carriers who seek to offer such services in Delaware. The SB 18 amendments maintained certification requirements for telecommunications carriers but revised the TTIA (§§ 704-707) to narrow the definition of "Basic Services" and to allow carriers to change the rates for Basic Services without Commission approval.

By Order No. 9506 dated December 5, 2019 (the "Order"), the Commission now proposes to revise its telecommunications rules to reflect the SB 18 amendments and to otherwise clarify and simplify its regulations by: (1) amending its "Rules for the Provision of Telecommunications Services," codified at 26 Del. Admin. C. § 4001 ("§ 4001") (Regulation Docket Nos. 10 and 45); (2) moving the remaining TTIA requirements (as amended by SB 18) from 26 Del. Admin. C. § 4005 ("§ 4005") to § 4001; and (3) repealing its "Regulations for the Implementation of the Telecommunications Technology Investment Act," codified at § 4005 (Regulation Docket No. 41).

The text of the Amendments are attached to the Order. The Order and related exhibits are reproduced in the January 2020 edition of the Delaware Register of Regulations and may also be reviewed online at the Commission’s website at www.depsc.delaware.gov. You may also obtain a paper copy of the Orders at the Commission’s Dover office for a fee of $0.25 per page.
Interested parties may file written comments, suggestions, briefs, compilations of data, or other materials concerning the Amendments. Such material (10 copies) may be submitted to the Commission on or before April 3, 2020, by email to lisa.driggins@delaware.gov or at the following address:

Delaware Public Service Commission
861 Silver Lake Boulevard
Cannon Bldg., Suite 100
Dover, Delaware, 19904
Attn: PSC Reg. Dckts. Nos. 10 & 45

The Commission will conduct a public hearing on the Amendments on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, beginning at 1:00 PM in the Hearing Room of the Delaware Public Service Commission, 861 Silver Lake Blvd., Dover, Delaware.

If you are handicapped and need assistance or aids in participating in this matter, please contact the Commission to discuss any needed assistance or aids. You may contact the Commission with questions or requests about this matter at the Commission's toll-free telephone number (800) 282-8574 (Delaware only) or (302) 739-4333 (including text telephone). You may also send inquiries by Internet e-mail addressed to psc@delaware.gov.