

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Staff Briefing Paper

Meeting Date: August 10, 2017..... * Agenda Item # 16

Companies: Charter Fiberlink CCO, LLC & Charter Fiberlink CC VIII, LLC

Docket No. Docket No. P-6716/SA-17-407
In the Matter of the Application of Charter Fiberlink CCO, LLC to Amend its
Certificate of Authority to Expand its Service Area

Docket No. P-5615/SA-17-408
In the Matter of the Application of Charter Fiberlink CC VIII, LLC to Amend its
Certificate of Authority to Expand its Service Area

Issues: Should the Commission amend the Certificates of Authority to extend the Service Areas?

Staff: Kevin O’Grady651-201-2218

Relevant Documents

Charter Fiberlink CCO Petition for Service Area Expansion (17-407) May 19, 2017
Charter Fiberlink CC VIII Petition for Service Area Expansion (17-408) May 19, 2017
Charter Fiberlink CCO Supplement to Petition (17-407) June 5, 2017
Charter Fiberlink CC VIII Supplement to Petition (17-408) June 5, 2017
DOC Comments (17-407) June 7, 2017
DOC Comments (17-408) June 7, 2017
Charter Fiberlink CCO Reply Comments (17-407) June 19, 2017
Charter Fiberlink CC VIII Reply Comments (17-408) June 19, 2017

The attached materials are work papers of Commission Staff. They are intended for use by the Public Utilities Commission and are based upon information already in the record unless noted otherwise.

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Background

On May 19, 2017, Charter Fiberlink CCO, LLC and Charter Fiberlink CC VIII, LLC (the Companies) filed requests to amend their Certificates of Authority to expand their service areas to include an additional ten local exchanges.

On June 5, 2017, the Companies filed supplemental material clarifying the identity of an incumbent carrier serving three of the exchanges.

On June 7, 2017, the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) raised concerns regarding the Companies' requests.

On June 19, 2017, the Companies responded to DOC.

Staff Comment

Charter Fiberlink CCO and Charter Fiberlink CC VIII were granted authority by the Commission to operate as CLECs in a number of exchanges in Minnesota (see dockets 09-239 and 09-240). The Companies now seek to expand their service areas to include the exchanges of Albany, Mission, Clarissa, Kerkhoven, Murdock, Pennock, Melrose, Osakis, Oronoco and Zumbrota.

Upon belief that the Companies may not serve retail customers in the requested exchanges, DOC recommended that the Commission grant the Companies' petitions only for the provision of service to non-retail customers, and if the Companies do offer retail service that they be required to (1) file any necessary updates to tariffs, (2) file any updates to their 911 plans, and (3) seek Commission approval of interconnection agreements.

The Companies respond that they do provide retail services in other exchanges for which they are certified. The Companies agree to (1) file any necessary updates to tariffs, (2) file any updates to their 911 plans, and (3) seek Commission approval of any necessary interconnection agreements. The Companies note that CCO arranges for interconnection on behalf of itself and CC VIII and, as such, CC VIII is not required to obtain approval of interconnection agreements.

Staff recommends approval of the Companies' service area expansion requests, subject to the standard conditions that they (1) file any necessary updates to their tariffs, and (2) file any necessary updates to their 911 plans.

Commission Options

1. Grant the requests by the Companies to extend their service areas to include the exchanges of Albany, Mission, Clarissa, Kerkhoven, Murdock, Pennock, Melrose, Osakis, Oronoco and Zumbrota, subject to the conditions that they (1) file any necessary updates to their tariffs, and (2) file any necessary updates to their 911 plans.
2. Deny the Companies' requests.
3. Take other action.

Staff recommends option #1.