Agenda Date: 04/11/12 Agenda Item: IIIG



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 www.nj.gov/bpu/

	CABLE TELEVISION
IN THE MATTER OF CABLEVISION SYSTEMS CORPORATION'S REQUEST FOR WAIVER, AS WITHIN TIME, OF THE 30-DAY NOTICE PERIOD FOR FILING OF AN ALTERATION IN CHANNEL ALLOCATION PURSUANT TO N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.17 (A) AND (B)	) ) ) ) ) DOCKET NO. CO12010035
10 N.J.A.C. 14:10-3.17 (A) AND (B)	) DOCKET NO. CO1201003

Adam Falk, Vice President, Government and Public Affairs, for Petitioner

#### BY THE BOARD:

By letter dated September 12, 2011 and filed with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board" or "BPU"), Cablevision Systems Corporation ("Cablevision" or "Petitioner") sought a Board waiver, as within time, of the 30-day notice period for the filing of a notice of an alteration in channel allocation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.17(a) and (b).

Cablevision maintains that the waiver request is necessary because it did not have sufficient time to comply with the 30-day notice requirement. According to Cablevision, on September 3, 2011, Cablevision's contract with the Tennis Channel expired and Cablevision was unable to reach an agreement for renewal prior to expiration of the contract. As a result, the Tennis Channel pulled its content that was previously carried on channels 399 and 795HD as a part of Cablevision's sports package. Consequently, Cablevision was unable to provide notice 30 days in advance of the program deletion to the Office of Cable Television ("OCTV"), in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.17(a). Nor was Cablevision able to provide notice to affected municipalities and subscribers at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the change, as required under N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.17(b).

Cablevision states that immediately thereafter, notice was provided to the Board and that on September 4, 2011, subscribers were notified of the program deletion via on-screen notices and subsequently by bill messages. Municipal officials were notified of the change by mail on or about September 4, 2011. The deletion of the Tennis Channel was not accompanied by a rate change in any service provided to Cablevision's subscribers.

N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.17(a) and (b) require each cable company to notify the OCTV, subscribers and municipalities of any channel deletions at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the deletion. Also, N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.17(c)(3) provides for the relaxation of the time for providing notification

when the programming service has been discontinued or withdrawn by the provider in such a manner as to leave the cable television operator without sufficient time to comply. Additionally, the cable television operator must have "acted to provide the required notice at the earliest possible date." N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.17(c).

Having reviewed this matter, the Board HEREBY FINDS that the waiver is appropriate under the present circumstances. Cablevision was notified of the deletion by the programming supplier with insufficient time to comply with the required 30 days prior notice, but Cablevision informed the Board, subscribers, and affected municipalities of the deletion of service at the earliest date possible. Therefore, the Board HEREBY APPROVES Petitioner's request for a waiver of the alteration in channel allocation filing requirements as previously described.

This Order shall be effective on April 23, 2012.

DATED:

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** BY:

**PRESIDENT** 

JEANNE M. FOX

M. Fo

4/11/12

**COMMISSIONER** 

**NICHOLAS ASSELTA** COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

**SECRETARY** 

**COMMISSIONER** 

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

KRISTI IZZO

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public

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## **SERVICE LIST**

IN THE MATTER OF CABLEVISIONS SYSTEMS INC. REQUEST FOR WAIVER, AS WITHIN TIME, OF THE 30-DAY NOTICE PERIOD FOR FILING OF AN ALTERATION IN CHANNEL ALLOCATION PURSUANT TO N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.17(A) AND (B)

DOCKET NO. CO12010035

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