

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105-3265**

**Rulemaking to Comply with the Competitive
Classification of Telecommunications Retail
Services Under 66 Pa. C.S. § 3016(a); General
Review of Regulations 52 Pa. Code, Chapter 63
and 64**

**PUBLIC MEETING: July 12, 2018
3001391-LAW**

Docket No. L-2018-3001391

STATEMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN ANDREW G. PLACE

This Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANOPR) proceeding is largely rooted at the Commission's 2015 landmark *Verizon Reclassification Order*¹ where the Commission classified the basic local exchange services in 153 wire centers of Verizon Pennsylvania LLC and Verizon North LLC (collectively Verizon), as competitive under the statutory requirements of Section 3016(a) of the Public Utility Code. 66 Pa. C.S. § 3016(a). The potential expansion and applicability for the waivers of our regulations that are contemplated in the ANOPR can and will have impacts in matters where the Commission exercises regulatory oversight such as the quality and reliability of service and consumer protection. I note that in the context of its *Verizon Reclassification* decisions the Commission directed the collection and evaluation of certain data:

The data required here will provide for the appropriate implementation and evaluation of the market-based regulatory goals of the [*Verizon*] *Reclassification Order*. Specifically, the data collection is intended to: (1) help assess the market in competitive areas, including the impact of our decision on affordability of basic service and quality of service in those areas, and (2) provide guidance for the rulemaking discussed in the [*Verizon*] *Reclassification Order*.

Data Collection and Reporting Order, Docket Nos. P-2014-2446303 and P-2014-2446304, entered September 11, 2015, at 1.

It is my sincere hope that consistent with all the applicable Commission Orders in the *Verizon Reclassification* proceeding, the interested parties will properly utilize the data submitted by Verizon in conjunction with their respective comments on the contemplated extension and permanent application of the waivers at issue for the Verizon wire centers. Furthermore, similar data that has been elicited in other proceedings, inclusive of follow-up reports, should also be utilized for the same purpose.²

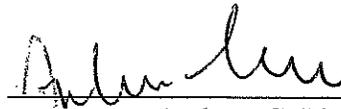
I would also like to invite comments on this ANOPR explaining how other states have recently chosen to modernize their respective regulations governing the provision of retail

¹ *Joint Petition of Verizon Pennsylvania LLC And Verizon North LLC for Competitive Classification of all Retail Services in Certain Geographic Areas and for a Waiver of Regulations for Competitive Services*, Docket Nos. P-2014-2446303 and P-2014-2446304, Order entered March 4, 2015 (*Verizon Reclassification Order*); see also *Final Implementation Opinion and Order*, and *Order (Data Collection and Reporting Order)*, Docket Nos. P-2014-2446303 and P-2014-2446304, both entered September 11, 2015.

² *Petition of Communications Workers of America for a Public, On-the-Record Commission Investigation of the Safety, Adequacy, and Reasonableness of Service Provided by Verizon Pennsylvania LLC*, Docket No. P-2015-2509336, Certificate of Satisfaction and Withdrawal of Complaint, June 2, 2017.

telecommunications services, with special emphasis on regulations that deal with reliability and quality of service, and consumer protections.

Finally, I note that the competitive classification of protected basic local exchange services that are provided by incumbent local exchange carrier telephone companies with carrier of last resort obligations is subject to the statutory requirements of Section 3016(a), including appropriate findings of sufficiently competitive markets and the presence of substitute telecommunications services. This can materially affect the process and the future applicability of certain regulation waivers that were the subject of the *Verizon Reclassification Order*.



Andrew G. Place
Vice Chairman

Dated: July 12, 2018