

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

**Assumption of Commission Jurisdiction
Over Pole Attachments from the Federal
Communications Commission**

**Public Meeting August 29, 2019
3002672-LAW
Docket No. L-2018-3002672**

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER NORMAN J. KENNARD

Before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) for consideration and disposition is the Final Rulemaking Order which asserts Commission jurisdiction over pole attachments and adopts the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) regulations over pole attachments in totality.

The Commission's action today marks a pivotal step in promoting broadband deployment throughout the Commonwealth. Asserting Commission jurisdiction over pole attachments will make our adjudicatory and enforcement processes available to expeditiously resolve disputes that arise for both pole owners and pole attachers. Just and timely resolution of these pole attachments disputes before the Commission will facilitate the installation of broadband for all the residents of the Commonwealth.

The comments received in this matter underscore and accentuate the need for Commission jurisdiction over these pole attachment disputes. It is clear that the current system of FCC oversight of these disputes is inadequate because there is no ready or efficient means to enforce pole attachment rules. Providing a local dispute forum at the Commission will allow for prompt resolution of these matters and result in broadband expansion for of our residents, schools, and hospitals, particularly those located in more rural and remote portions of the Commonwealth.

I thank all of parties who participated in the rulemaking process by providing meaningful comments in this matter. I also commend the Commission's Law Bureau, specifically Shaun Sparks, Colin Scott, Christian McDewell, and Laura Griffin, for creating an exemplary work product. Finally, I thank all of the industry stakeholders, legislative leaders, and the Governor's Office for their continued commitment to initiatives dedicated to the expansion of broadband access across the Commonwealth.

Date: August 29, 2019



NORMAN J. KENNARD
COMMISSIONER