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Keefe B. Clemons
General Counsel – Northeast Region

May 15, 2018

Honorable Kathleen H. Burgess
Secretary
New York State Public Service Commission
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223

Re: Party Line Service Withdrawal

Dear Secretary Burgess:

The enclosed tariff pages, which are listed in the Attachment to this letter, are issued by Verizon New York Inc. and are transmitted for filing with the Public Service Commission, State of New York, to be effective June 15, 2018.

The proposed revisions discontinue party line services. Party line is an obsolete service. In addition, AT&T, which provides operator service and long distance calling capability on Verizon's party lines, will be discontinuing these services in the near future. Existing customers may choose competitively-priced local and long distance options to their party line service.

There are approximately 900 subscribers to party-line services in New York. Fewer than a dozen of these customers are actually sharing a line. The others are effectively receiving single party service, not party-line service. Indeed, Tariff PSC No. 15, § 2(A)(1)(b) currently defines "two-party ... and four-party line services" as "grades of exchange service providing an exchange access line for ... two subscribers, or four subscribers respectively." The same section of the current tariff also provides that "[i]n certain exchanges party line service is furnished only to present subscribers on the same premises. In these exchanges, when the number of party access lines is equal to or less than five percent of the total number of residence access lines, party line service will be eliminated." In all of the exchanges in New York in which customers are currently billed at party-line rates, the number of such customers is, in fact, less than five percent of the total number of residence access lines.

The Company notified party line customers of the service withdrawal via letter in May 2018, and it is making phone calls to each customer. Therefore, we respectfully request waiver of newspaper publication.

Please forward the acknowledgement receipt for this filing to Jeanette Nunez at jeanette.nunez@verizon.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keefe B. Clemons".

Attachment

Withdrawal of Party-Line Services
(Effective June 15, 2018)

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