

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105-3265

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

PUBLIC MEETING: April 21, 2016  
2509336-OSA

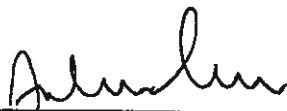
Docket No. P-2015-2509336

JOINT STATEMENT OF  
VICE CHAIRMAN ANDREW G. PLACE AND COMMISSIONER PAMELA A. WITMER

Before us for consideration and disposition is a Petition for Interlocutory Review and Answer to a Material Question (Petition) that was submitted by Verizon Pennsylvania LLC (Verizon PA or Company), on or about March 29, 2016. In accordance with applicable Commission regulations, the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (I&E), Communications Workers of America (CWA), and Verizon PA submitted briefs in response to the Petition on April 8, 2016.

We believe that this proceeding should go forward. Its relevant contested factual issues should be appropriately presented before presiding Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Joel H. Cheskis.

While we may agree that all of the four (4) Material Questions posed by Verizon PA in its Petition should be answered in the negative, we disagree with deeming, transforming, or otherwise reclassifying this proceeding as a complaint. We believe that the presiding ALJ should perform the impartial task of taking evidentiary testimony and reaching appropriate and recommended findings of fact. Thus, such recommended findings should only be limited to the nature and scope of the contested material facts at issue and not the future standing of the parties. Also, the findings should not include any ALJ recommendations on potential penalties if any violations of the Public Utility Code and our regulations were to be demonstrated. Such recommended findings of fact would then form the basis for a future Commission decision to formally refer or not refer this matter for investigation to I&E.



Andrew G. Place  
Vice Chairman



Pamela A. Witmer  
Commissioner

Dated: April 21, 2016