

Highlights from Docket Number - 05-06-12 Video Programming

Attorney General's Brief – an excerpt

While the specific terms and conditions of the respective franchises must be determined in those separate proceedings, it is a fundamental premise that the Department must ensure that consumers are treated fairly. In this regard, the Attorney General urges the Department to make clear that any franchise award will require that competitive video service providers:

- a. offer a basic service package consisting of local, governmental and educational programming, affordable to all consumers;
- b. make their video services available to all state residents and state businesses, regardless of geographic location; and
- c. make their video services available to all Connecticut residents on a stand alone basis and there should be no requirement that they be obtained in conjunction with other services that may be offered by a video service provider.

Cable Company Position - an excerpt

IV. CONCLUSION

AT&T and the Telco have acknowledged that there is no ruling from the FCC or a court of competent jurisdiction that unequivocally allows an ILEC to provide video programming using its telephone network without first obtaining a cable franchise, as would otherwise be required in Connecticut. In fact, the Telco surrendered to the Department a very favorable state-wide cable television franchise a mere four years ago, abandoning approximately 30,000 customers. Based on the law, the facts and the record in this Docket, the Department has absolutely no cause, or legal authority, to provide AT&T and the Telco with a "free pass" into the video business. The Department should make clear that AT&T qualifies as a cable operator offering cable service over a cable system and, therefore, must be required to comply with applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including obtaining a Department-issued cable franchise.

Respectfully submitted,

NEW ENGLAND CABLE AND
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By: 