

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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January 16, 2008

Mr. Justin M. Robinson  
Consultant  
Rural Economic Development Network, Inc.  
354 River Street  
Springfield, Vermont 05156

Re: DT 08-001, Fast Track Arbitration Request

Dear Mr. Robinson:

On January 8, 2008, you filed on behalf of the Rural Economic Development Network, Inc. (REDNet) a request for fast track arbitration of Verizon New Hampshire's (Verizon's) denial of REDNet's request for access to Verizon's dark fiber facilities from Candia to Raymond. In its Order No. 22,942 dated May 19, 1998, the Commission established a 20-day "fast track" arbitration as the appropriate process to resolve disputes concerning dark fiber availability.

Staff has reviewed REDNet's filing, including Verizon's response to REDNet's fiber inquiry, and concluded that Verizon's denials raise, *inter alia*, the issues of whether the dark fiber reserved by Verizon for maintenance and its own use on the designated route is demonstrably necessary to meet Verizon's own short-term service needs, and whether alternative routes were considered. Therefore, pursuant to RSA 363:17, the Commission has appointed a member of its staff, Attorney Lynn Fabrizio, with technical assistance as needed, to arbitrate this matter. In accordance with the time frames established for fast track arbitration in Order No. 22,942, Attorney Fabrizio is directed to report to the Commission her findings and recommendations no later than January 28, 2008. Docket No. DT 08-001 has been assigned for future reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra A. Howland".

Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director

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JUSTIN ROBINSON  
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Docket #: 08-001      Printed: January 17, 2008

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