

**FairPoint Communications, Inc.**  
**State of New Hampshire**  
**Docket No. DT 07-011**

**Respondent:** Michael Brown  
**Title:** Vice President, Access  
Engineering

**REQUEST:** Office of Consumer Advocate - Rebuttal

**DATED:** September 19, 2007

**ITEM:** OCA R-50 Refer to page 6, line 16 through page 7, line 2, of the Rebuttal Testimony of Michael S. Brown, Michael L. Harrington and John Smee.

- a. When did the site visits occur?
- b. What is the approximate estimated cost of addressing the "cable in need of maintenance" and the "cable that should be targeted for replacement"?
- c. In your view, is the outside plant in Concord, Dover, Hanover and Newmarket representative of outside plant throughout New Hampshire? Please explain.

**REPLY:**

- a. The site visits took place during the week of December 18, 2006.
- b. The purpose of the OSP inspection performed by the teams was not to develop detailed cost analysis but instead to provide an overall visual health check of the network cabling system. The routine maintenance that was observed consisted of the following:
  1. Broken lashing wire – lashing wire is the thin wire that secures cables to the strand. The due diligence teams discovered locations where this lashing wire was broken causing the cable to sag off of the strand. This is not normally a service affecting trouble and can be resolved by simply re-lashing the cable(s) to the strand in that span. The cost to cure this issue is minimal, normally ranging from \$250 - \$500 per location.

2. Tree Trimming – The due diligence teams observed several locations where tree trimming was recommended. Tree trimming is not normally service affecting but should be performed as a part of any maintenance program. (The cost of tree trimming depends on the amount of trimming required and the type of vegetation being trimmed.)
3. Pole Transfers – There were locations where the telephone cables need to be relocated to a new pole installed by the Power Company. Pole transfers can range from \$500 per location to \$1500, depending on the complexity of the transfer.
4. Cable Closures – There were some locations where older “Ready Access” closures were bulging and should be replaced. These closures protect the cable from the elements and could cause service quality issues in time if left unattended. The cost to replace these terminals normally ranges from \$250 - \$750 per location depending on the size of the cable.

None of the items above were believed to be immediately service affecting by the teams performing the due diligence and should be addressed as a part of the yearly maintenance program. The cable mentioned that should be targeted for replacement was also not engineered and priced out. It was denoted by the team as a small cable with some mid-span closures. The team suggested that the cable should be replaced but did not perform a determination of the cost.

- c. These locations were selected because FairPoint determined they would provide a cross section of the OSP in the state of New Hampshire. A cross section of city sizes was important to assure that larger feeder cables, mid size feeder cables, fiber cable and small distribution cables would be observed. Concord (pop. 40,687), Dover (pop. 26,884), Hanover (pop. 10,850), and Newmarket (pop. 8027). In FairPoint’s view these locations are representative of the outside plant facilities throughout New Hampshire.

In addition to these areas FairPoint has since gone through the following towns and performed a visual inspection of the outside plant facilities during travels through the area: Bartlett, Conway, Groveton, Gorham, Guildhall, Jefferson, Lancaster, Randolph and Stratford.

These inspections did not produce any findings that were beyond what had previously been determined.