



FEATURES |

MPSC Issues 2014 Annual Report |

Note: The Michigan Public Service Commission issued the Press Release below on March 2, 2015. For further information, please contact Judy Palnau at 517-284-8300 or via e-mail at <palnauj@michigan.gov>.

March 2, 2015 – The Michigan Public Service Commission (“MPSC”) today issued its annual report to Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature. The report can be read online on the MPSC’s Website. . . .

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. . . <http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mpsc/2014_MPSC_Annual_Report_482786_7.pdf>

Highlights of the 2014 report include the following:

- The MPSC awarded nearly \$90 million in grants for low-income energy assistance to various organizations. The grants provide immediate assistance for heating needs as well as longer-term assistance in reducing future heating costs for low-income and senior citizens.
- The Commission extended its consumer outreach efforts by attending 75 events throughout the state, ranging from utility sponsored Customer Assistance Days to fairs. The Commission continues to make its Commission meetings available via podcast, handling 17,208 consumer contacts and assisting consumers and businesses with more than 9,924 electric and natural gas complaints and inquiries; 2,171 telecommunications complaints and inquiries; and 1,574 video/cable complaints and inquiries.
- The Commission in 2014 issued 455 orders, consisting of 93 telecommunications, 303 electric, 55 natural gas orders, and four motor carrier orders.
- The Commission also revised the retail natural gas rates of Northern States Power Company and approved the transfer of ownership and control of Upper Peninsula Power Company from Integrys Energy Group to Balfour Beatty Infrastructure Partners, L.P.
- The Commission undertook a series of process improvement initiatives, including streamlining the processing of for-hire motor carrier applications for intrastate authority, upgrading the intrastate telecommunications service provider database and software, and updating the MPSC scorecard, a record of the Commission's performance on key indicators.

The MPSC is an agency within the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

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MPSC: Gladwin County Latest to Earn “Connected” Broadband Certification in Michigan |

Note: The Michigan Public Service Commission issued the Press Release below on March 11, 2015. For further information, please contact Judy Palnau at 517-284-8300 or via e-mail at <palnauj@michigan.gov>.



March 11, 2015 - The Michigan Public Service Commission (“MPSC”) today commended Gladwin County for becoming the latest Michigan community to be certified as a "connected" community that has developed a broadband and technology plan to expand broadband access, adoption and use.

"Gladwin County is the 12th community in the state to earn this designation," said Commissioner Sally Talberg. "It is now part of the elite group of Michigan communities that have completed the broadband certification process. These 'connected' communities understand that their success includes access to reliable high-speed networks, digital literacy of residents and the use of online resources locally for business, agriculture, government, and leisure."

The Gladwin County broadband initiative team worked with Connect Michigan to assess the local broadband landscape, identify gaps and establish actionable goals and objectives. It developed a technology action plan with seven priorities: developing a technology mentorship program; performing an analysis of local policies and ordinances; pursuing next generation 911 upgrades; completing a vertical assets inventory; facilitating Internet safety classes; identifying, mapping, and validating broadband demand; and developing or identifying a broadband training and awareness program for small and medium size businesses.

Gladwin County joins Harbor, Inc. (Emmet County), Marquette, Charlevoix, Antrim, St. Clair, Roscommon, Livingston, Mecosta, Clare, Otsego, and Ogemaw counties to earn this distinction in Michigan.

Connect Michigan <<http://www.connectmi.org/>> is a public-private partnership between the Michigan Public Service Commission and Connected Nation to work with local governments, businesses, and citizens in the goal of increasing broadband access, adoption and use. For more information on the Connected Community Engagement Program, visit: <<http://www.connectmycommunity.org/>>.

The MPSC has issued a consumer tips sheet <http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mpsc/Broadband_Alert_5-13-11_352958_7.pdf> on broadband availability in Michigan and other helpful information.

The MPSC is an agency within the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

For more information about LARA, please visit <<http://www.michigan.gov/lara>>. Follow us on Twitter <<http://www.twitter.com/michiganLARA>>, “Like” us on Facebook, or find us on YouTube <<http://www.youtube.com/michiganLARA>>.

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2015 & 2016 LEGISLATION |

Copies of bills and public acts referred to in this column may be obtained by contacting your state Senator or Representative, on the Michigan Legislature Website, <<http://www.michiganlegislature.org/>>, or from the Legislative Service Bureau Document Room at (517) 373-0169.

House Bill # Primary Sponsor	Date Introduced	Description	Status (revisions in bold)
HB 4006 Heise	01/15/2015	Law enforcement; investigations; disclosure of call location information by wireless providers to requesting law enforcement agency; require. Creates new act.	02/18/2015 Substitute H-1 reported with recommendation by House Committee on Criminal Justice; referred to second reading.
HB 4291 Love	03/04/2015	Environmental protection; recycling; consumer electronic waste; expand to include cellular telephones and tablet computers. Amends secs. 17301, 17305, 17307 & 17309 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.17301 et seq.) & repeals sec. 17313 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.17313)	03/04/2015 referred to House Committee on Communications and Technology.

PUBLIC ACTS OF 2015 & 2016 |

Listed below are Public Acts related to telecommunications that were passed during the current legislative session (2015-2016). Copies of Public Acts may be obtained by contacting your state Senator or Representative, on the Michigan Legislature Website, <<http://www.michiganlegislature.org/>>, or from the Legislative Service Bureau Document Room at (517) 373-0169. Acts passed since the previous edition of the Michigan Telecommunications Report are in bold.

To date, no 2015-2016 Telecommunications Legislation has been enacted in Michigan.

ORDERS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION |

The Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) issued the following Orders at its regularly scheduled meeting held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. at the Commission’s new offices located at 7109 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan.

Case No. U-10054 License
Commission’s Own Motion

Case No. U-12276 License
The Winn Telephone Company

Case No. U-12638 License
The Winn Telephone Company

Case No. U-13020 License
The Winn Telephone Company

Case No. U-14771 License
The Winn Telephone Company d/b/a Winn Telecom
<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=14771>

On March 10, 2015, the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) issued an Order rescinding the license of The Winn Telephone Company to provide basic local exchange service in the State of Michigan. In 2008, The Winn Telephone Company transferred the assets it used to provide local exchange service to its wholly owned subsidiary, Winn Restructuring, Inc., which was granted a license by the Commission on December 4, 2007, in Case No. U-15368. The customers of The Winn Telephone Company became the customers of Winn Restructuring, Inc., which was later renamed Winn Telephone Company. Winn Telephone Company is currently licensed and providing service to all customers and service areas previously served by The Winn Telephone Company. On February 4, 2015, The Winn Telephone Company filed an application requesting to surrender its license to provide basic local exchange service and stated that it no longer provides such services and has no customers.

Case No. U-11548 Eligible Telecommunications Carrier
Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, Inc. (Chippewa County Telephone Company)

On March 10, 2015, the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) issued an Order authorizing the relinquishment of Chippewa County Telephone Company’s designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”). Chippewa County Telephone Company was originally designated an ETC in conjunction with other members of the Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, Inc. on November 27, 1997. On February 26, 2015, Chippewa County Telephone Company filed an application requesting to relinquish its ETC designation. The Application stated that Chippewa County Telephone Company no longer provides services to any customers. The 12 Lifeline customers that Chippewa County Telephone Company previously had were transferred to Hiawatha Telephone Company effective January 1, 2015, and they continue to receive their Lifeline discounts.

Case No. U-14152

Interconnection Agreement

AT&T Michigan and Level 3 Communications, LLC

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=14152>

Application filed March 3, 2015, for approval of the Eighth Amendment to an Interconnection Agreement (adds terms and rates for the comingling of wireline and wireless traffic on the same trunk).

On March 10, 2015, the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) issued an Order approving the above-listed Interconnection Agreement Amendment.

Case No. U-14472

License

CenturyTel Acquisition LLC

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=14472>

On March 10, 2015, the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) issued an Order rescinding the license of CenturyTel Acquisition LLC to provide basic local exchange service in all exchanges currently served by Verizon North Inc. and Contel of the South, Inc., d/b/a Verizon North Systems, and SBC Michigan. On February 23, 2015, CenturyTel Acquisition LLC informed the Commission of its intent to surrender the license and stated that, pursuant to a corporate reorganization, it has no customers in the state of Michigan.

Case No. U-14742

Eligible Telecommunications Carrier

Nexus Communications, Inc.

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=14742>

On March 10, 2015, the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) issued an Order authorizing the relinquishment of Nexus Communications, Inc.’s designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”). On February 17, 2015, Nexus Communications, Inc. filed, with the Commission, a Notice of Relinquishment of its Wireline Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation in the State of Michigan, Effective as of May 1, 2015.

Case No. U-17721

Multiline Telephone Systems - Rulemaking

Commission’s Own Motion

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=17721>

On March 10, 2015 the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) issued an Order adopting revisions to the Commission’s Rules governing multiline telephone systems and the responsibilities of telephone system operators regarding the installation of equipment and software necessary to provide specific location information for a 9-1-1 call, R 484.903. The revisions lower the threshold for the size of buildings in which an operator would be responsible for providing Automatic Location Identification (“ALI”) and Automatic Number Identification (“ANI”) of the specific location of an extension on a multi-line telephone system to the appropriate 9-1-1 Public Service Answering Point (“PSAP”) from a 40,000 square-foot building to a 7,000 square-foot building. On January 13, 2015, the Commission opened a rulemaking proceeding and invited interested persons to appear and make statements and comments regarding these rule revisions.

Two commenters appeared at a public hearing on the matter, and on behalf of the State 9-1-1 Committee (“SNC”) spoke in support of the proposed rule change. The Michigan Department of the Attorney General also submitted written comments on behalf of the SNC in support of the rule change. The Michigan Communication Directors Association (“MCDA”) also submitted comments in support of the proposed rule change.

MiCTA submitted comments opposing the proposed rule change. MiCTA described itself as an association of non-profit colleges, universities, K-12 school systems, state and local governmental units, health care providers, and other non-profit entities. MiCTA stated in its Comments that the change would have the effect of imposing new requirements on small businesses and MiCTA members that are not subject to the rule as it is currently written. MiCTA states that the change – making the rule clearly applicable to occupied areas of 7,000 square feet, rather than 40,000 square feet – imposes onerous expenses on small businesses and non-profits. MiCTA notes that the MLTS statute does not take effect until December 31, 2016, and contends that “Because the rules are not yet effective, any proposed changes are merely speculative, since the Commission has no idea whether or not the implementation of the rules will be effective.” MiCTA comments, p. 5.

The Commission adopted the proposed rule changes noting that “[t]hrough the statute is applicable to all such users, the SNC and the Commission are concerned that the space designations contained in the current R 484.903 may cause some covered MLTS users to think that they need not install the required equipment because the size or layout of their building(s) is excluded from the definitions of covered spaces included in Rule 3(2)-(5).

The revised Rules will now be submitted to the Legislative Service Bureau and the Office of Regulatory Reinvention for their formal approvals.

APPLICATIONS AND COMPLAINTS |

Case No. U-13175

Interconnection Agreement

AT&T Michigan and XO Michigan, Inc.

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=13175>

On March 6, 2015, AT&T Michigan and XO Michigan, Inc. jointly filed an Application with the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) for approval of the Twenty-Eighth Amendment to their Interconnection Agreement. According to the Application, the Twenty-Eighth Amendment further extends the term of the Twenty-Sixth Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement pertaining to the current Commission approved and ordered Performance Measures and Remedies Plan, to December 31, 2016.

Case No. U-14152

Interconnection Agreement

AT&T Michigan and Level 3 Communications, LLC

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=14152>

On March 3, 2015, AT&T Michigan and Level 3 Communications, LLC jointly filed an Application with the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) for approval of the Eighth Amendment to their Interconnection Agreement. According to the Application, the Eighth Amendment adds terms and rates for the comingling of wireline and wireless traffic on the same trunk to the Interconnection Agreement.

Case No. U-14553

Interconnection Agreement

AT&T Michigan and Metropolitan Telecommunications of Michigan, Inc. d/b/a MetTel

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=14553>

On March 5, 2015, AT&T Michigan and Metropolitan Telecommunications of Michigan, Inc. d/b/a MetTel jointly filed an Application with the Michigan Public Service Commission

(“Commission”) for approval of the Fourth Amendment to their Interconnection Agreement. According to the Application, the Fourth Amendment adds Joint and Several Liability and Notices Update provisions into the Interconnection Agreement.

Case No. U-17855

Interconnection Agreement

AT&T Michigan and AirNorth Communications, Inc.

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=17885>

On March 6, 2015, AT&T Michigan and AirNorth Communications, Inc. jointly filed an Application with the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) for approval of an Interconnection Agreement. According to the Application, the Interconnection Agreement is an adoption, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(i) of the Interconnection Agreement by and between AT&T Michigan and TelNet Worldwide, Inc. that was approved by the Commission in an Order issued on September 25, 2012 in Case No. U-17119, including various later Amendments.

Case No. U-17856

Consumer Complaint

Mark P. Donaldson and Peggy Hampel v Custom Software, Inc., Kirtland Community College, Frontier, Frontier North, Verizon Wireless, and Connect Michigan, Inc.

On March 6, 2015, Mark P. Donaldson and Peggy Hampel, of Roscommon, Michigan, filed a formal Complaint with the Michigan Public Service Commission against Custom Software, Inc., Kirtland Community College, Frontier, Frontier North, Verizon Wireless, and Connect Michigan, Inc. According to the Complaint, Mr. Donaldson and Ms. Hampel (the “Complainants”) allege that the above-listed providers failed to provide notice to and gain allegedly requisite approvals from various municipalities prior to offering telecommunications services. The Complainants also allege that the providers have an obligation to provide free service to municipalities in the areas they are serving. The Complainants request that the Commission impose fines, order various parties to provide them with information, and order the providers to provide free services to the municipalities where they offer services.

NOTICES OF OPPORTUNITIES TO COMMENT |

The following Notices of Opportunity to Comment have been issued by the Michigan Public Service Commission’s Executive Secretary. Any interested person may submit comments on the application by sending written comments to the Commission by mail to: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, Michigan 48909. Electronic comments may be e-mailed to: <mpscfilecases@michigan.gov>. Any comments should reference the applicable docket number.

Case No. U-17850

License

CenturyLink Communications, LLC

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=17850>

Comments Due: Tuesday, April 14, 2015

The Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) has invited interested Parties to comment on the February 23, 2015 Application of CenturyLink Communications, LLC for approval to expand the geographic scope of its license to provide basic local exchange service to include all zones and exchange areas in the State of Michigan. Written and electronic comments may be filed with the Commission and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2015.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS |

The following Notices of Hearings have been issued by the Michigan Public Service Commission's Executive Secretary. Unless otherwise noted, all hearings are held 7109 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan.

There are no known Notices of Hearing for Telecommunications Hearings pending before the Michigan Public Service Commission at this time.

MPSC HEARINGS SCHEDULE |

Note: Unless indicated otherwise, hearings are held at the Michigan Public Service Commission's new offices at 7109 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan. Hearing dates and times are subject to change or cancellation. Please check with the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 241-6160 to confirm that a hearing will be taking place.

KNOWN TELECOMMUNICATIONS HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT FORTNIGHT (MARCH 16, 2015 THROUGH MARCH 27, 2015)

There are no known Telecommunications Hearings scheduled during the current fortnight

FUTURE TELECOM HEARINGS SCHEDULED

There are no known Telecommunications Hearings scheduled beyond the current fortnight

2015 REGULAR MPSC MEETING DATES[†] |

MONTH & DATE	DAY	TIME
March 23 [‡]	Monday	4:00 p.m.
March 24[‡]	Tuesday	1:30 p.m.
April 14	Tuesday	1:30 p.m.
April 27	Monday	1:30 p.m.
May 14	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
June 3	Wednesday	1:30 p.m.
June 15	Monday	1:30 p.m.
June 30	Tuesday	1:30 p.m.
July 9	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
July 23	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
August 11	Tuesday	1:30 p.m.
August 25	Tuesday	1:30 p.m.
September 10	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
September 24	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
October 7	Wednesday	1:30 p.m.
October 22	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
November 5	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
November 19	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
December 8	Tuesday	1:30 p.m.
December 22	Tuesday	1:30 p.m.

[†] Additional meetings of the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) may be scheduled, as needed, on 18 hours-notice as permitted by Section 5(4) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.265(4).

All meetings of the Commission are open to the public and will be held at the Commission’s new offices, which are located at 7109 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan, 48917, unless posted and notified in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. Visitors should park in the south side, rear parking lot, which is in the back of the building and enter through the doors posted for “Visitors.” The meeting site is accessible, including handicapped parking. People with disabilities requiring additional accommodations such as information in alternative formats in order to participate in the meeting should contact the Commission’s Executive Secretary at (517) 284-8090.

Agendas for all Regular and Special Meetings will be posted on 18-hours notice. A posted agenda is subject to Amendment as determined by the Commission. Any person with a question about a Regular or a Special Meeting of the Commission may make an inquiry by calling the Commission’s Executive Secretary at (517) 248-8090.

[‡] On March 10, 2015, the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) announced that its next Regular Commission Meeting is scheduled for Monday March 23, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Lake Michigan Hearing Room, 7109 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan and that the March 24, 2015 Regular Commission Meeting will not be held.

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