



FEATURES |

Upgraded Cellular Coverage at Michigan Stadium |

The record crowd of 109,318 at the 2014 Guinness International Champions Cup Soccer Game held on August 2 at the University of Michigan's Michigan Stadium – the largest to attend a soccer match in the United States – were part of an experiment testing upgraded cellular coverage at the Stadium. The University of Michigan Athletic Department, in partnership with University of Michigan Information and Technology Services, tested upgraded cellular coverage at Michigan Stadium for Verizon Wireless and AT&T Mobility. . . .

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Upgraded Cellular Coverage at Michigan Stadium | continued from Page 1

The upgrade to the distributed antenna system (“DAS”) at Michigan Stadium was managed by ExteNet Systems, which is constructing the systems for cellular providers Verizon and AT&T. The Verizon infrastructure improvement was installed prior to the soccer game. A temporary solution was in place for AT&T customers. This temporary structure for AT&T was visible from both the east and west towers, but will be removed once a permanent solution is installed during the football season.

According to Jerry Wood, University of Michigan Associate Athletic Director for Information Technology, “this is a great starting point for us in terms of testing the new system, we hope to learn some lessons from the soccer match that will help us improve the service heading into football season.”

“Cellular service at Michigan Stadium has always been sub-par, and we continue to pursue every possible alternative to improve this amenity for our fans,” wrote Michigan Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, David Brandon, in his regular internet blog after the game. “We have tested several approaches to improving cellular coverage and performance -- with results that have been more frustrating than they have been effective. While our test at the soccer game received some anecdotal kudos, others found cellular coverage to still be lacking.”

Brandon, also noted that “Even if we are using the best cell phone technology available, once we get into a large crowd, everyone is competing for access to a limited resource. So the amount of information trying to get through the 'pipe' is huge when thousands of people want to tweet, text or call during a timeout, halftime, after a big play, etc.”

With Michigan Stadium built below street level and having one continuous, open seating arrangement, the University was required to find locations to unobtrusively place antennas – Brandon wrote that this impacts their effectiveness.

In its most recent test, the University “built fake brick piers to camouflage antennas at field level. This allows the radio waves to shoot back up into the stands.” The initial cellular installation at Michigan Stadium only allowed the placement of the antennas under the various spectator tunnels located around the stadium.” According to Brandon, this “allowed the signal to be distributed up and down the stadium. We still use the other systems, but the increased signal from the field provided a noticeable improvement.”

The University is “working to engineer the best possible connectivity with aid of the experts, consultants, and the cellular providers themselves,” Brandon noted, “and because of the difficulties presented to this technology by the design of Michigan Stadium, we continue to test different engineered designs by the two carriers who have been willing to partner with the U-M Athletic Department -- Verizon and AT&T Mobility.” The University also stated that other carriers are discussing partnerships with U-M as the mobile industry examines ways to better serve their customers.

According to Brandon, “the results of our recent test during the soccer game will provide us with a significant amount of analytical data when the carriers decipher the numbers. High-level analysis points to a 600-percent increase in capacity in certain areas. The big challenge is that with the

seemingly insatiable demand for connectivity, the extra capacity is almost immediately consumed. Another way to think of it is last year Verizon had the equivalent of two ‘cell towers’ covering the inside of the stadium. For the soccer game they had the equivalent of four cell towers and, with further refinements, they are targeting to have the equivalent of seven towers by the first football game. The initial cut at the data suggests we are clearly making progress, but to increase our fans connectivity to the extent that everyone gets quick cellular access when they want it will still require a lot of testing, work and refinement.”

"This is a great starting point for us in terms of testing the new system," added Wood. "We hope to learn some lessons from this Saturday's soccer match that will help us improve the service heading into football season."

Athletic Director’s David Brandon’s Blog on “Big House Cellular Coverage Efforts Continue” is available on his webpage at <<http://www.mgoblue.com/brandon/>>.

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2013 & 2014 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 Web site, <<http://www.michiganlegislature.org/>>, or from the Legislative Service Bureau Document Room at (517) 373-0169.

Senate Bill # Primary Sponsor	Date Introduced	Description	Status (revisions in bold)
SB 033 Schuitmaker	01/16/2013	Campaign finance; campaign practices; automated campaign telephone calls; require to identify who paid for call. Amends 1976 PA 388 (MCL 169.201 - 169.282) by adding sec. 48.	Referred to Senate Committee on Local Government and Elections.
SB 0294 Jones	04/10/2013	Gaming; lottery; sale of lottery tickets; prohibit sale over internet. Amends sec. 9 of 1972 PA 239 (MCL 432.9).	Referred to Senate Committee on Regulatory Reform.
SB 0493 Jones	09/17/2013	Communications; broadcasting; local zoning restrictions for amateur radio; require to conform to federal regulations. Amends 2006 PA 110 (MCL 125.3101 - 125.3702) by adding sec. 205a.	Referred to Senate Committee on Energy and Technology.
SB 0539 Nofs 2013 PA 173	09/24/2013	Torts; governmental immunity; underground facility damage prevention; define as proprietary function. Amends sec. 7 of 1964 PA 170 (MCL 691.1407). Tie Bar with SB 0540.	12/3/2013 Signed by Governor Synder; assigned 2013 PA 173 with immediate effect.

Senate Bill # Primary Sponsor	Date Introduced	Description	Status (revisions in bold)
SB 0540 Nofs 2013 PA 174	09/24/2013	Public utilities; consumer services; MISS DIG underground facility damage prevention and safety act; create. Creates new act & repeals 1974 PA 53 (MCL 460.701 - 460.718). Tie Bar with SB 0539.	12/3/2013 Signed by Governor Synder; assigned 2013 PA 174 with immediate effect.
SB 0599 Hansen	10/03/2013	Crimes; criminal sexual conduct; use of internet or computer system to solicit prostitute less than 21 years of age; prohibit. Amends sec. 145d of 1931 PA 328 (MCL 750.145d).	Referred to Senate Committee on Families, Seniors, and Human Services.
SB 0636 Nofs 2014 PA 52	10/22/2013	Communications; telecommunications; general amendments; provide for. Amends secs. 304, 310, 313, 315, 317, 320 & 502 of 1991 PA 179 (MCL 484.2304 et seq.).	03/27/2014 Signed by Governor Snyder; assigned 2014 PA 52, with immediate effect.
SB 0734 Caswell	01/08/2014	Holidays; other; "Utility Workers Safety Awareness Day"; designate as December 6. Creates new act.	Referred to Senate Committee on Government Operations.
SB 0824 Pappageorge	02/25/2014	State financing and management; authorities; process for transferring METRO Act authority powers; revise, and provide other general amendments. Amends secs. 2 & 3 of 2002 PA 48 (MCL 484.3102 & 484.3103). Tie Bar with SB 822.	04/01/2014 Signed by Governor Snyder; assigned 2014 PA 88, with immediate effect.
SB 0924 Bieda	05/01/2014	Crimes; other; posting of sexually explicit image of another person on internet with intent to frighten, intimidate, or harass; prohibit, and require removal of sexually explicit images under certain circumstances. Amends 1931 PA 328 (MCL 750.1 - 750.568) by adding sec. 145e. Tie Bar with SB 0925.	06/04/2014 Referred to House Committee on Criminal Justice. 06/03/2014 Substitute S-1 passed Senate, 37 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Excused.
SB 0925 Jones	05/01/2014	Crimes; penalties; penalties for posting sexually explicit image on internet or failing to remove posted sexually explicit image from internet under certain circumstances; provide for. Amends 1931 PA 328 (MCL 750.1 - 750.568) by adding sec. 145f. Tie Bar with SB 0924.	06/04/2014 Referred to House Committee on Criminal Justice. 06/03/2014 Substitute S-1 passed Senate, 37 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Excused.

House Bill # Primary Sponsor	Date Introduced	Description	Status (revisions in bold)
HB 4011 Heise	01/22/2013	Communications; emergency 9-1-1; recordings from 9-1-1 calls; prohibit disclosure under certain circumstances. Amends sec. 13 of 1976 PA 442 (MCL 15.243)	Referred to House Committee on Oversight.
HB 4032 Geiss	01/22/2013	Education; public school academies; cyber schools; require posting educational materials on website and submission to department. Amends 1976 PA 451 (MCL 380.1 - 380.1852) by adding sec. 553b.	Referred to House Committee on Education.
HB 4237 Haines	02/12/2013	Communications; other; authorized use of Michigan public safety communications system; expand. Amends title & secs. 1, 2 & 3 of 1929 PA 152 (MCL 28.281 et seq.).	Referred to House Committee on Energy and Technology.
HB 4531 Cotter	04/11/2013	Gaming; lottery; sale of lottery tickets; prohibit sale over internet. Amends sec. 9 of 1972 PA 239 (MCL 432.9).	Referred to House Committee on Government Operations.
HB 4671 Poleski 2013 PA 113	05/02/2013	Communications; emergency 9-1-1; distribution of service charge fees for 9-1-1; revise. Amends sec. 408 of 1986 PA 32 (MCL 484.1408).	09/24/2013 Signed by Gov. Synder; assigned 2013 PA 113; with immediate effect.
HB 4702 Franz	05/07/2013	Communications; telecommunications; public service commission report regarding pole attachment rates; require. Amends sec. 6g of 1939 PA 3 (MCL 460.6g).	Referred to House Committee on Energy and Technology.
HB 4843 Forlini	06/13/2013	Campaign finance; other; automated campaign telephone calls; require to identify entity making or paying for call. Amends 1976 PA 388 (MCL 169.201 - 169.282) by adding sec. 48.	Referred to House Committee on Elections and Ethics.
HB 4853 Walsh	06/20/2013	Communications; emergency 9-1-1; additional PSAPs or secondary PSAPs within a 9-1-1 service district; allow county to designate by resolution. Amend sec. 312 of 1986 PA 32 (MCL 484.1312).	Referred to House Committee on Energy and Technology.
HB 4984 Lori	09/17/2013	Communications; emergency 9-1-1; procedure to determine which public safety service unit is closest to a request for public safety service; modify. Amends secs. 102 & 204 of 1986 PA 32 (MCL 484.1102 & 484.1204).	Referred to House Committee on Local Government.

House Bill # Primary Sponsor	Date Introduced	Description	Status (revisions in bold)
HB 5042 McMillin	10/02/2013	Law enforcement; state police; posting of information concerning speed limit engineering and traffic investigation requests on website; require of state police. Amends sec. 628 of 1949 PA 300 (MCL 257.628).	Referred to House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
HB 5110 Heise	10/29/2013	Law enforcement; investigations; disclosure of call location information by wireless providers to requesting law enforcement agency; require. Creates new act.	02/26/2014 Reported by House Committee on Criminal Justice with recommendation with substitute H-2; referred to second reading..
HB 5246 Rogers	01/28/2014	Criminal procedure; warrants; use of electronic video equipment for issuance of warrants; allow for law enforcement officials. Amends sec. 1, ch. IV of 1927 PA 175 (MCL 764.1).	03/20/2014 Reported by House Committee on Judiciary with substitute H-2; referred to second reading.
HB 5260 Shirkey	01/29/2014	Public utilities; other; telephone solicitations regarding electric or natural gas service; require certain disclosures. Amends secs. 9 & 10a of 1939 PA 3 (MCL 460.9 & 460.10a).	Referred to House Committee on Energy and Technology.
HB 5431 Hobbs	03/26/2014	Education; curriculum; internet safety instruction; require. Amends 1976 PA 451 (MCL 380.1 - 380.1852) by adding sec. 1162.	Referred to House Committee on Education.
HB 5499 Oakes	04/30/2014	Communications; telecommunications; changes made by 2014 PA 52; eliminate. Amends secs. 103, 304, 310, 313, 317, 320 & 502 of 1991 PA 179 (MCL 484.2103 et seq.).	Referred to House Committee on Energy and Technology.
HB 5710 McMillin	07/16/2014	Law enforcement; investigations; search warrant to be obtained before use of surveillance devices to intercept mobile device information; require. Amends 1966 PA 189 (MCL 780.651 - 780.659) by adding sec. 2b.	Referred to House Committee on Criminal Justice.
HB 5712 McMillin	07/16/2014	Law enforcement; other; surveillance device act; create and regulate the use of surveillance devices by police agencies and police officers under certain circumstances. Creates new act.	Referred to House Committee on Criminal Justice.

PUBLIC ACTS OF 2013 & 2014 |

Listed below are Public Acts related to telecommunications that were passed during the current legislative session (2013-2014). 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.

Public Act #	Effective Date	Description	Enrolled Bill # and Sponsor
2013 PA 113	09/24/2013	Communications; emergency 9-1-1; distribution of service charge fees for 9-1-1; revise. Amends sec. 408 of 1986 PA 32 (MCL 484.1408).	HB 4671 Poleski.
2013 PA 173	12/3/2013	Torts; governmental immunity; underground facility damage prevention; define as proprietary function. Amends sec. 7 of 1964 PA 170 (MCL 691.1407).	SB 0539 Nofs
2013 PA 174	12/3/2013	Public utilities; consumer services; MISS DIG underground facility damage prevention and safety act; create. Creates new act & repeals 1974 PA 53 (MCL 460.701 - 460.718).	SB 0540 Nofs
2014 PA 52	03/27/2014	Communications; telecommunications; general amendments; provide for. Amends secs. 304, 310, 313, 315, 317, 320 & 502 of 1991 PA 179 (MCL 484.2304 et seq.).	SB 636 Nofs
2014 PA 88	04/01/2014	State financing and management; authorities; process for transferring METRO Act authority powers; revise, and provide other general amendments. Amends secs. 2 & 3 of 2002 PA 48 (MCL 484.3102 & 484.3103). Tie Bar with SB 822 (2014 PA 80).	SB 824 Pappageorge

ORDERS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION |

The Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) issued the following Orders at its regularly scheduled meeting held on Tuesday, August 5, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. at the Commission’s temporary offices located at 4300 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan.

Case No. U-11756

Remand from FCC

Michigan Pay Telephone Association et al. v Ameritech Michigan and GTE North Incorporated

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=11756>

On August 5, 2014, the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) issued an Order Approving Mediation Resolution and Refund Distribution in the above captioned proceeding. On December 6, 2013, the Commission found “that AT&T’s overhead allocation for toll service was not cost-based and that AT&T had not met its burden to properly justify the use of toll service as a comparable service, and ultimately was not in compliance with the FCC’s NST. The Commission further found that the new local usage rate of \$0.0190176 per message to each independent payphone providers (“IPPs”) was NST compliant and lower than those previously charged by AT&T. The Commission determined that the difference between the new effective local usage rates and those previously charged by AT&T should be refunded to each IPP beginning April 15, 1997, and continuing until AT&T ceased payphone service in Michigan.” On January 6, 2014, AT&T filed a refund report. On January 21, 2014, the Michigan Pay Telephone Association (“MPTA”) filed an objection to that report. On March 6, 2014, the Commission appointed a Mediator to mediate all disputed issues related to AT&T Michigan’s refund report.

Following mediation, on July 23, 2014, the parties filed a joint petition for approval of a mediation resolution and refund distribution (“Joint Petition”). In the Joint Petition, the parties indicated that they agreed on the refund amount with interest, as specified in a Confidential Exhibit attached to the Joint Petition, as well as a process for paying and distributing refunds. The refund is to be paid by AT&T Michigan to MPTA for the benefit of MPTA, the complainants, and their counsel as specified in the Joint Petition and Confidential Exhibit A, with the exception of the six parties that are no longer being represented by the MPTA’s counsel. The Joint Petition specifies a detailed process by which the six parties would receive notice of the mediated result in this case at their last known address and could assert a right to a refund (up to an aggregate total of \$500,000) within a fixed time of receiving the notice.

The parties also agreed that, upon issuance of the Commission’s Order granting approval of the Joint Petition AT&T Michigan and the MPTA will withdraw their respective appeals with the Michigan Court of Appeals in this case.

APPLICATIONS AND COMPLAINTS |

Case No. U-13758

Interconnection Agreement

AT&T Michigan and MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=13758>

On August 11, 2014, AT&T Michigan and MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC jointly filed an Application with the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) seeking approval of the Sixteenth Amendment to their Interconnection Agreement. According to the

Application, the Sixteenth Amendment extends the Superseding Reciprocal Compensation, Interconnection and Trunking terms in the Fifteenth Amendment for one additional year.

Case No. U-17699

Interconnection Agreement

CenturyTel Midwest-Michigan, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel of Michigan, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel of Northern Michigan, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel of Upper Michigan, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink and New Horizon Communications Corp.

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=17699>

On August 12, 2014, CenturyTel Midwest-Michigan, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel of Michigan, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel of Northern Michigan, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel of Upper Michigan, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink and New Horizon Communications Corp. jointly filed an Application with the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) seeking approval of an Interconnection Agreement.

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-17655

Telecommunications Relay Service

Commission’s Own Motion

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=17655>

Reply Comments Due: Thursday, August 28, 2014

On July 8, 2014, the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) issued an Order opening a Comment Proceeding regarding the status of Telecommunications Relay Service (“TRS”) in the State of Michigan.

The Commission has been made aware that AT&T Michigan has sent Accessible Letters to both incumbent and competitive LECs informing them that, effective February 1, 2015, AT&T Michigan will discontinue the TRS service it provides to these carriers throughout the State of Michigan. The Commission also understands that AT&T Michigan will also notify individual providers via contract termination notices in the upcoming months. AT&T Michigan has stated that it intends to continue providing TRS to its own customers.

The Commission, in order to determine the impact of AT&T Michigan’s proposed discontinuance of TRS service to LECs throughout the State, has opened this docket to solicit comments on the following issues:

1. If AT&T Michigan discontinues providing TRS before a replacement system is in place, what will be the immediate effect on the providers that depend on AT&T Michigan and the Michigan TRS program from a financial, technical, and customer service perspective;

2. Do providers want to offer TRS independently and cease reliance on a single company, provide TRS jointly, contract with other independent TRS providers, or pursue a different option;
3. If providers favor a single company, who will step into AT&T Michigan's role;
4. How much time is required before an alternative program can be operational;
5. What are the costs associated with each alternative;
6. Should Michigan set up a non-profit TRS, as some other states have done;
7. Should a surcharge be added for all lines;
8. Will providers be required to apply for new approved rates (since most do not have one); and
9. Are providers concerned about the economies of scale issue – meaning, are they willing to pay more for the service in light of the fact that they do not have a large sector of the market included in their cost pool?

Persons who wished to comment regarding the status of TRS as discussed in this Order were required to submit initial comments to the Commission no later than August 7, 2014. Reply comments may be filed with the Commission no later than August 28, 2014. All comments should reference Case No. U-17655. Written comments should be sent to: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, P. O. Box 30221, Lansing, Michigan 48909. Comments may also be e-mailed to <mpscdockets@michigan.gov> or filed electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets Website

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 at Constitution Hall, 525 W. Allegan, Lansing, Michigan.

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

MPSC HEARINGS SCHEDULE |

Note: Unless indicated otherwise, hearings are held in Constitution Hall, 525 W. Allegan, 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 (AUGUST 18, 2014 THROUGH AUGUST 29, 2014)

There are no known Telecommunications Hearings scheduled before the Michigan Public Service Commission during the upcoming fortnight.

FUTURE TELECOM HEARINGS SCHEDULED

September 18, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
Case No. U-17619/Evidentiary Hearing
Westphalia Telephone Company, and Great Lakes
Comnet, Inc. v AT&T Corp (intercarrier
compensation)

September 22 & 23, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
Case No. U-17619/Evidentiary Hearing
Westphalia Telephone Company, and Great Lakes
Comnet, Inc. v AT&T Corp (intercarrier
compensation)

October 9, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
Case No. U-17660/Prehearing Conference
Westphalia Telephone Company, and Great Lakes
Comnet, Inc. v Level 3 Communications LLC,
Global Crossing Local Services Inc., and Witel
Communications LLC (intercarrier compensation)

2014 REGULAR MPSC MEETING DATES[†] |

MONTH & DATE	DAY	TIME
August 19	Tuesday	1:30 p.m. [‡]
September 9	Tuesday	1:30 p.m. [‡]
September 11	Thursday	1:30 p.m. [‡]
September 23	Tuesday	1:30 p.m.
October 7	Tuesday	1:30 p.m.
October 23	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
November 6	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
November 21	Friday	1:30 p.m.
December 4	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
December 18	Thursday	1:30 p.m.

[†] Additional meetings 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 Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) are open to the public. Until further notice, all meetings will be held at the Commission’s temporary offices, which are located at 4300 W. Saginaw St., Lansing, MI 48917, unless posted and notified in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. 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) 241-6160.

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 Michigan Public Service Commission may make an inquiry by calling the Commission’s Executive Secretary at (517) 241-6160.

[‡] On August 5, 2014, Michigan Public Service Commission announced that its next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

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