



MT. HOOD CABLE REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Serving Multnomah County and the Cities of Fairview, Gresham, Portland, Troutdale and Wood Village

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Cable Television Services Franchise with Verizon

The Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission (MHCRC) is seeking input and comment from the community about proposed public benefits and other requirements of a franchise agreement with Verizon for cable television services in the Cities of Fairview, Gresham, Troutdale, Wood Village and unincorporated areas of Multnomah County. Verizon plans to extend its services beyond phone and Internet services to include cable television. Once offered, the service will provide the East County community with a competitive option to Comcast cable service. The Public Hearing will be held:

Monday, September 15, 2008

7:00 pm

MetroEast Community Media

829 NE 8th St.

Gresham, OR

MHCRC staff has proposed a cable television services franchise agreement with Verizon. However, the draft franchise for this Hearing has not been entirely agreed upon by Verizon and several fundamental issues remain under discussion. Your participation in the hearing will assist the MHCRC in addressing the remaining issues under discussion and making its recommendation to the city councils and the County Commission on the public benefits, consumer protection, enforcement and other requirements to include in the Verizon cable franchise.

In order to provide time for as many people who want to participate, please limit your comments to three minutes and address specific public benefit components and remaining issues under discussion in the proposed agreement. In addition, if providing oral testimony at the Hearing, a written summary would be helpful.

The Hearing will be cablecast live on Channel 29 on all cable systems in Multnomah County.

The Hearing will include the capability for citizens to provide comments by telephone. Please call 503.667.7555 to provide comment by phone during the Hearing.

If you are unable to participate in the Hearing, but wish to submit comments, send written testimony by **September 22** to:

MHCRC

1120 SW Fifth Ave., Room 1305
Portland, OR 97204

Or email comments to: rgibbons@mhcr.org

PROPOSED FRANCHISE AGREEMENT AND OTHER HEARING DOCUMENTS

The staff proposed franchise, along with a Summary Chart containing an overview of key franchise components and differences in MHCRC staff's and Verizon's positions with respect to certain issues are available through the MHCRC's website (www.mhcr.org) or by emailing rgibbons@mhcr.org or calling 503-823-5385.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

The MHCRC is committed to sending the City Councils and County Commission a cable franchise recommendation which brings competition to the cable television marketplace in East County while protecting the local authority to manage the public rights-of-way, protect citizens and cable customers, and adequately enforce the terms of the final agreement. In addition, the MHCRC is mindful of the need for similar obligations, in most material respects, with Comcast's cable franchise so that key protections and public benefits are not lost or diminished in the future renewal of the Comcast franchise.

This Hearing will afford the public an opportunity to provide input and comment on issues in several key areas, including:

- ▶ Local and meaningful consumer protection and customer service standards to the full extent provided in applicable federal law;
- ▶ Preservation of local authority to manage and receive compensation for use of the public right-of-way;
- ▶ Dedicated channel capacity and funds to support the community's thriving local programming and rich coverage of community news, events and government meetings;
- ▶ Local access to the developing cable system technologies for distribution of local programming to the community and information about that programming available to subscribers; and,
- ▶ Adequate enforcement tools to ensure future cable company compliance with the agreed upon terms and public benefits of the franchise.

The MHCRC seeks your input and comment on the key public benefits of the proposed franchise, the differing approaches to some unresolved issues, and on the franchise as a whole.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS

- ▶ The proposed franchise includes a variety of public benefits related to MetroEast Community Media and public, educational and governmental (PEG) local programming. Do you believe the proposed benefits in this area are reasonably commensurate to those currently provided by Comcast? Do you believe there are aspects missing or areas you particularly support?
- ▶ Do the proposed consumer protection and customer service provisions adequately protect consumers in a competitive marketplace for cable television services? Should the Jurisdictions retain authority provided under current federal law to revise or adjust the standards during the life of the franchise should that prove necessary?
- ▶ If there are problems with the company complying with the franchise requirements in the future, does the franchise provide adequate methods and tools to deter noncompliance and enable the MHCRC to ensure compliance?
- ▶ With respect to the issues identified as unresolved on the Summary Chart, do you favor the MHCRC staff's position or Verizon's position and why...OR do you have another approach you would like to propose?
- ▶ Are there other public benefit components you believe are missing from the proposed franchise? If so, what public benefits would you recommend including?
- ▶ Do you believe the franchise as a whole provides the protections and benefits necessary in a competitive cable marketplace?

We hope you will participate by providing your views on these and other issues or concerns you may have.

For questions or additional information about the Hearing, please contact:
Rebecca Gibbons at (503) 823.5385.