

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7192

Petition for Investigation into Alleged Unlawful)
Customer Records Disclosure by Verizon New)
England Inc., d/b/a Verizon Vermont)

Order entered: 6/27/2006

ORDER OPENING INVESTIGATION

INTRODUCTION

On June 21, 2006, the Department of Public Service ("Department") filed a Petition for Investigation into Alleged Unlawful Customer Records Disclosure by Verizon New England Inc., d/b/a Verizon Vermont ("Verizon"). In its Petition, the Department alleges that Verizon has not adequately responded to certain information requests from the Department made pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 206. The Department states that Verizon's failure has hindered the Department's ability to discharge its statutory duty. As a result, the Department asks us to open an investigation, consolidate the investigation with Docket 7183 (in which the Public Service Board is considering a petition from eight ratepayers concerning Verizon's alleged disclosure of customer information to the National Security Agency), and impose penalties on Verizon.

The Department's Petition raises serious issues that we need to resolve. The ability to obtain information is critical to enable the Department to adequately perform its responsibilities. Accordingly, we will open an investigation into the Department's Petition.

At this time, however, we will not schedule a prehearing conference or establish a schedule. The Department has stated in Docket 7183 that it would seek to consolidate this investigation with that docket. We have established a schedule in Docket 7183 to address this issue as well as to consider a motion to dismiss that Verizon has stated that it intends to file. It is

reasonable to await our resolution of the consolidation issue and dispositive motions before holding a prehearing conference in this proceeding.¹

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by the Public Service Board of the State of Vermont that:

1. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 203, 209, 218(a), an investigation is commenced regarding Alleged Unlawful Customer Records Disclosure by Verizon New England Inc., d/b/a Verizon Vermont.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 27th day of June, 2006.

<u>s/James Volz</u>)	PUBLIC SERVICE
)	
)	
<u>s/David C. Coen</u>)	BOARD
)	
)	OF VERMONT
<u>s/John D. Burke</u>)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: June 27, 2006

ATTEST: s/Susan M. Hudson
Clerk of the Board

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: Clerk@psb.state.vt.us)

1. We intend to hold a status conference in Docket 7183 on August 23 to set the schedule after resolving the preliminary issues.