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PUCO



1300 Columbus-Sandusky Rd. N.  
Marion, OH 43302

August 24, 2007

Renee J. Jenkins, Docketing Division  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

James E. Sullivan, Outage Emergency  
Coordinator  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

Re: *In the Matter of the Amendment of the Minimum Telephone Service Standards as Set Forth in Chapter 4901:1-5 of the Ohio Administrative Code, PUCO Case No. 00-1265-TP-ORD*

Dear Ms. Jenkins and Mr. Sullivan:

Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code 4901:1-5-16 ("MTSS Rule 16"), Verizon North Inc. requests a waiver of paragraphs (A) and (B) of the MTSS Rule 16 due to verifiable Acts of God beginning on August 19, 2007.

As a result of severe rainfall, lightening, winds, many Verizon exchanges are flooding and causing thousands of service outages and difficulty accessing certain areas to make needed repairs. The precipitation from the recent weather has caused severe flood-related impediments to service restoration such as road closures, damaged utility lines, etc. As a result of excessive weather, Verizon is requesting a waiver in the affected counties.

As of August 22, 2007, Governor Strickland had declared emergencies in Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Richland, Seneca, Van Wert and Wyandot counties.

At this time, Verizon is not prepared to file a detailed list of exchanges and customers affected. Verizon is compiling this data and will be prepared to file it along with other pertinent details and documentation as soon as feasible.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cassandra Cole".

Cassandra Cole  
Verizon  
Director

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