

Certification of Competitive Telecommunications Providers



NARUC Energy Regulatory Partnership Program

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and
The Vermont Public Service Board*

by

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Certification of Competitive Telecommunications Providers

- ❖ Over the last several years the Board has certified over 800 telecommunications providers.
- ❖ These providers are comprised mainly of resellers of intrastate long distance services.
- ❖ In order to deal more efficiently with the relatively large volume of petitions in this competitive environment, the Board developed a streamlined application system.
- ❖ Consumers are sufficiently protected by the ability to choose another competitive provider and comprehensive consumer protection rules.
- ❖ The streamlined process reduces the time and costs of both the providers seeking certification and the agencies charged with reviewing the applications.



The Application Form

- ❖ The Board has developed a simple application form which can be downloaded from the Board's website.
- ❖ There is no application fee. (However, certificated carriers are responsible for remitting annual gross receipts tax payments.)
- ❖ The form requires the applicant to provide certain information including:
 - Contact information
 - Description of proposed service offerings and facilities
 - Background information: Has the company ever been the subject of an investigation? Has the company ever been in bankruptcy?
 - Documentation: Secretary of State registration, description of corporate structure, ownership interests and affiliates, and a disaster recovery plan if applicable.



The Certification Process

- ❖ The carrier files a complete application form with the Board.
- ❖ The Clerk of the Board sends a copy of the application to the Department of Public Service with a request for a recommendation.
- ❖ The Department sends a recommendation to the Board on whether the application should be approved.
- ❖ Provided the Department recommends approval, the Board issues an Order and Certificate of Public Good to the applicant.
 - The Board has developed a template Order and CPG to speed the process.
- ❖ The entire process takes approximately 4 weeks.



Revocation of a Certificate of Public Good

- ❖ The carrier files a letter with the Board stating that it no longer offers service in Vermont and wishes to relinquish its CPG.
- ❖ The letter is forwarded to the Department of Public Service for recommendation.
- ❖ Provided the Department recommends approval, the Board issues an Order revoking the CPG.
- ❖ The Board may, without a request from a carrier, revoke a CPG for good cause.