



ALJ/EF1/cg7 03/28/2025

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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A2410006

In the Matter of the Joint Application of Verizon Communications Inc., Frontier Communications Parent, Inc., Frontier California Inc., Citizens Telecommunications Company of California Inc., Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc., Frontier Communications Online and Long Distance Inc., and Frontier Communications of America, Inc. for Approval of the Transfer of Control of Frontier California Inc. (U1002C), Citizens Telecommunications Company of California (U1024C), Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. (U1026C), Frontier Communications Online and Long Distance Inc. (U7167C), and Frontier Communications of America, Inc. (U5429C), to Verizon Communications Inc. Pursuant to California Public Utilities Code Section 854.

Application 24-10-006

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING NOTICING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARINGS AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

On October 18, 2024, Verizon Communications, Inc. (Verizon) and Frontier Communications Parent, Inc. and its California local exchange and long-distance subsidiaries (Frontier) filed a joint application to seek approval of a proposed

parent-level transaction in which Verizon will acquire 100 percent of Frontier and its California Operating Subsidiaries.

In this ruling, the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) sets twelve in-person public participation hearings (PPHs) and four virtual PPHs between May 29, 2025 and July 15, 2025 throughout Frontier's California service territories. The main purpose of the PPHs is to provide opportunities for customers of the joint applicants to communicate directly with the Commission regarding the proposed transfer.

1. Background

The PPHs will be led by the assigned Commissioner and assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). Other Commissioners, Commissioner office staff, and ALJs may also attend or lead. Please note that no decisions will be made or voted on at a PPH.

The Commission's court reporters will record the statements made during the PPHs and will post the transcript on the Commission's website at the Docket Card for this proceeding. Details regarding how to participate in the in-person and remote PPHs are provided below and further information about the application and other ways to stay informed is available at www.cpuc.ca.gov/pph. The Joint Applicants are directed to take certain actions to further notice and facilitate public participation at these PPHs.

2. General Information

Based on the number of speakers wishing to provide comments, the ALJ may limit speakers' time so that all speakers have an opportunity to comment, and to conduct an efficient, respectful hearing.

The Commission's court reporters will record the statements made during the hearing and post the transcript on the Commission's website at the Docket Card for this proceeding, apps.cpuc.ca.gov/p/A2410006.

Public officials wishing to speak should provide their name, title, and governmental entity prior to speaking.

Representatives of parties already involved in this proceeding, absent compelling reasons otherwise, will not be given the opportunity to comment at the PPHs since the purpose of the PPHs is to hear from members of the public who do not have the opportunity to be heard through the formal hearing process.

For a language interpreter, please contact the Commission's Public Advisor's Office at least five business days before the hearing using one of the following methods:

- Phone: 1-866-849-8390 (toll-free) or 1-415-703-2074
- E-mail: Public.Advisor@cpuc.ca.gov

In addition to the PPHs, customers may submit written public comments at any time during the proceeding and read other public comments via the Commission's website at the Docket Card for this proceeding, using the Public Comment tab at: apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/A2410006.

Updates and further information regarding the PPHs will be available at www.cpuc.ca.gov/pph.

3. In-Person Public Participation Hearings

The in-person PPHs will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

Date and Times	Location
May 29, 2025 2 PM & 6 PM	Palm Desert City Council Chambers 73510 Fred Waring Drive Palm Desert, CA 92260

June 11, 2025 2 PM & 6 PM	Santa Barbara City Council 735 Anacapa Street Santa Barbara, CA 93102 ¹
June 18, 2025 2 PM & 6 PM	Eureka City Council Chambers 531 K Street Eureka, CA 95501
June 24, 2025 2 PM & 6 PM	Monticola Clubhouse 140 S Lassen Street Susanville, CA 96130
June 30, 2025 2 PM & 6 PM	Long Beach City Council Chambers 411 West Ocean Boulevard Long Beach, CA 90802
July 7, 2025 2 PM & 6 PM	Sacramento County Board of Supervisors' Board Chambers 700 H Street, Suite 1450 Sacramento, CA 95814

4. Virtual Public Participation Hearings

The virtual PPHs will be held as follows:

Date and Times	Meeting Access Information
June 16, 2025 2 PM & 6 PM	Phone Number 1-800-857-1917 Passcode: 6032788# Webcast: Adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/
July 15, 2025 2 PM & 6 PM	Phone Number 1-800-857-1917 Passcode: 6032788# Webcast: Adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/

To attend the virtual PPHs, participants can watch the webcast link and/or use the toll-free telephone number.² The webcast has English or Spanish

¹ Parking can be validated if parked in City Lot 10 at Anacapa and Ortega.

² The video broadcast will be recorded and archived for future viewing.

captions that can be accessed by clicking the green button below the video screen.

To provide public comment, participants should use the toll-free telephone number and passcode noted above. Participants who wish to speak must then press “star one” and record their first and last name when prompted. This will alert the operator, who will then queue the speakers and announce each speaker’s name at the allotted time. When it is time for public comment, the ALJ will make an announcement through the telephone line for those who wish to speak.

5. Directions to Joint Applicants

This ruling directs the Joint Applicants to assist in the outreach and promotion of these PPHs.

The Joint Applicants are directed to:

- Include notice of the PPHs as a written insert with a mailed bill to California customers that currently receive bills via the United States Postal Service. The notice shall clearly state the dates and times of the PPHs. The Joint Applicants shall provide a draft notice to the Public Advisor’s Office within 10 days of the issuance of this ruling, and the Public Advisor’s Office may modify the draft notice;
- Send an e-mail message to all California customers that elect to receive their bills via e-mail. The subject line of the e-mail must clearly notify the recipient that PPHs will be held in this proceeding. The Joint Applicants shall provide a draft notice to the Public Advisor’s Office within 10 days of the issuance of this ruling, and the Public Advisor’s Office may modify the draft notice;
- Publicize the PPHs on all social media platforms used by the Joint Applicants;

- Post notice of the PPHs on the Joint Applicants' website serving California customers in a prominent location so that customers can easily access the notice; and
- Post notice of the PPHs in all offices located in California where customers come into contact with a company customer service representative.

Each form of notice described above shall state that the PPHs are both in-person and remote. No later than 10 days after publication of each of the notice forms described above in this Ruling, each company listed above shall serve notice on the Public Advisor's Office and assigned ALJ by e-mail verifying that it has complied with all directives set forth above. The e-mail verification shall state when the notice was, or will be completed, and shall include as an attachment a copy of the notice for each communication method. For each communication method described above, the e-mail shall state the dates the company sent or posted the notice to customers, the approximate number of customers notified or the number of offices where the information was posted, and the geographic location covered.

6. Directions on Notice to Tribal Leaders

Joint Applicants shall identify all Tribal communities in California, relying on the list maintained by the California Native American Heritage Commission, which includes approximately 109 Federally Recognized Tribes and 70 more non-Federally Recognized Tribes. Within 20 days of this Ruling, Joint Applicants shall file and serve in this proceeding a Response to ALJ Ruling including the following: 1) notice of the list of Tribes identified; and 2) confirmation that Joint Applicants contacted each Tribal leader by email, letter, and phone call to provide the notice described below; and 3) one example of a notice sent to Tribal communities. Names and contact information of individuals shall not be included in the notice; names of only tribes shall be included in the notice.

Notice of the proceeding to Tribal communities should be made in the following manner:

- a. Joint Applicants must provide notice of PPHs in this proceeding by providing a copy of this ruling noticing the PPHs.
- b. Joint Applicants must provide notice of this application, including:
 - A factual description of the application, not including opinions or arguments;
 - A map of the locations of Frontier's and Verizon's service territories impacted by the proposed transaction, no smaller than 8.5" X 11" in size, and at the ZIP Code level or a more granular geographic span. This map shall include the major county roads and county and state highways.
- c. Joint Applicants must provide notice that information sessions may be requested by individual Tribes/tribal members or jointly by more than one Tribe/tribal member.
 - The notice should state that Joint Applicants are willing to discuss the application with any Tribe in California and provide the contact information and title of the Verizon or Frontier employee that should be contacted to request such a meeting. The notice should also state that if a meeting is requested, Joint Applicants will offer to provide a summary or transcript of the meeting to Tribal participants, and the Tribal participants will have an opportunity to verify its accuracy.
 - For any information session scheduled, the Joint Applicants shall provide notice to the assigned ALJ and the Commission's Office of the Tribal Advisor by email at TribalAdvisor@cpuc.ca.gov within one business day of confirming the date, time and location.³
 - The information session should be noticed on the docket of this proceeding by filing and serving a notice at least ten calendar days

³ The Joint Applicants shall inform the ALJ and Office of the Tribal Advisor at Elizabeth.Fox@cpuc.ca.gov and TribalAdvisor@cpuc.ca.gov, respectively.

in advance, with notice including the date, time, and location of the information session.

- Tribal participants may opt out of the preparation of a summary or transcript of the information session.
 - If Tribal participants consent to the recording and preparation of a summary/transcript, Joint Applicants must file and serve the summary/transcript on the docket of this proceeding⁴ and on the Office of Tribal Advisor. The Joint Applicants must provide an attestation that the Tribal participants consented to the preparation of and verified the accuracy of the summary/transcript and consented to the filing and service of the summary/transcript.
 - If Tribal participants request that no transcript or summary is filed and served, Joint Applicants will file and serve a post-meeting notice on the docket and on the Office of Tribal Advisor that the meeting occurred and the Tribal participants requested that no transcript or summary be filed on the docket.
- The Joint Applicants shall file and serve any transcript, summary, and post-meeting notices within 30 days of the date of the information session and before opening briefs are filed in this proceeding.

Written notice must be approved by the assigned ALJ prior to distribution.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The schedule for PPHs is adopted, as stated above.

⁴ Personal names of individual tribal member participants shall be redacted in the transcripts/summaries unless the individual has consented for release of their name or other identifying information

2. Within 10 days of the date of this ruling, the Joint Applicants must provide drafts of their written and emailed bill insert notices to the Public Advisor's Office and shall incorporate edits at the direction of the Public Advisor's Office.

3. The Joint Applicants must serve notice no later than 10 days after publication of each of the PPH notice forms described in this Ruling on the ALJ and Public Advisor's Office by e-mail.

4. Parties must not, absent compelling reason otherwise, be provided with an opportunity to comment at the PPHs.

5. Within 20 days of this ruling, Joint Applicants must file and serve a Response to this ALJ Ruling: 1) giving notice of the list of Tribes identified; 2) providing confirmation that it contacted each identified Tribal leader by email, letter, and phone call to provide notice of the Application, PPHs, and the opportunity for information sessions, as discussed herein; and 3) providing one example of a notice sent to Tribal communities.

6. For any information session scheduled with a Tribe, the Joint Applicants must: (1) provide notice of the information session to the assigned ALJ and the Commission's Tribal Advisor within one business day by e-mail, (2) filing and serving notice of the information session within 10 calendar days of the information session, and (3) file and serve either a summary/transcript or a post-information session notice within 30 days of the date of the Tribal information session and before the filing of opening briefs in this proceeding.

Dated March 28, 2025, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ ELIZABETH FOX
Elizabeth Fox
Administrative Law Judge