

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Telecommunications and Cable

1000 Washington Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02118

(617) 305-3580

www.mass.gov/dtc

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EDWARD A. PALLESCHI
UNDERSECRETARY

KAREN CHARLES PETERSON
COMMISSIONER

JUN 12 2020

June 4, 2020

RE: Petition of Comcast Cable Communications, LLC to establish and adjust the basic service tier programming, equipment, and installation rates for the communities in Massachusetts served by Comcast Cable Communications, LLC that are currently subject to rate regulation, D.T.C. 19-5

Dear Issuing Authority:

The Department of Telecommunications and Cable ("Department") will hold a public and evidentiary hearing, pursuant to G.L. c. 166A, § 15 and 207 C.M.R. § 6.03, to investigate the proposed basic service tier programming, equipment, and installation rates in rate-regulated communities in Massachusetts served by Comcast Cable Communications, LLC ("Comcast"), in response to Comcast's filings. The hearing will be held by teleconference at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, and is a formal adjudicatory hearing conducted under G.L. c. 30A and 207 C.M.R. 1.00. Comcast, as the cable operator serving your community, is required to arrange for notice of the hearing, both by newspaper publication and by cablecasting. G.L. c. 166A, § 15; 207 C.M.R. § 1.06(5). The proceeding is docketed as D.T.C. 19-5. A copy of the hearing notice that Comcast is required to publish is enclosed for informational purposes.

As the issuing authority for a municipality served by Comcast, you may want to participate in this hearing. Please note that under Massachusetts regulations, issuing authorities are not automatic parties to rate proceedings. 207 C.M.R. § 1.03(1). While our proceedings allow for public input from all persons, an interested person may participate as a party only if it files a petition to intervene and the Department grants the petition. *Id.* The petition to intervene must state with specificity how the petitioner is substantially and specifically affected by the rate proceeding. *Id.*

An issuing authority that is granted party status has the right to participate fully in the proceeding, including the right to cross-examine the cable operator's witnesses at the hearing, the right to receive all correspondence and documents provided by the cable operator to the Department, and the right to appeal the Department's Rate Order.

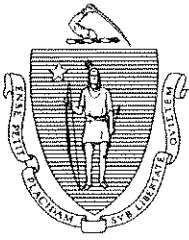
An intervenor is also allowed to participate in discovery. *See* 207 C.M.R. § 1.06(6)(c). For example, the intervenor may submit to the cable operator prior to the hearing written questions related to the rate proceeding, which the cable operator is required to answer. A party that wishes to intervene must file its petition to intervene with the Department by 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, August 5, 2020.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the hearing procedures, please contact me at mark.merante@mass.gov or (617) 368-1114.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Merante', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Mark A. Merante
Hearing Officer



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND CABLE

D.T.C. 19-5

June 4, 2020

Petition of Comcast Cable Communications, LLC to establish and adjust the basic service tier programming, equipment, and installation rates for the communities in Massachusetts served by Comcast Cable Communications, LLC that are currently subject to rate regulation.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON CABLE BASIC SERVICE TIER RATES

The Department of Telecommunications and Cable ("Department") pursuant to G.L. c. 166A, § 15, and 207 C.M.R. § 6.03, will hold a public and evidentiary hearing to investigate proposed basic service tier programming, equipment, and installation rates of Comcast Cable Communications, LLC ("Comcast"). The hearing will take place by teleconference on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, at 10:00 A.M.

The Department will take public comment on Comcast's proposed rates during the public hearing. Any person wishing to listen to or submit verbal comments during the public hearing must call the following number at the start of the hearing and enter the following passcode:

Telephone number: 866-844-9419
Passcode: 55777612

Any person wishing to submit verbal comments during the public hearing is asked to submit such request prior to the hearing to Shonda D. Green, Secretary of the Department, at shonda.green@mass.gov or (617) 305-3580. The Department will also accept written public comments until August 12, 2020. Written comments should be directed to Shonda Green at the email address, or in hardcopy to the mailing address, below.

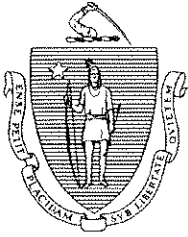
Any person who desires to participate in the evidentiary portion of this proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene by e-mail to dtc.efiling@mass.gov or in hardcopy to:

Shonda Green
Department of Telecommunications and Cable
1000 Washington Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02118-6500

Petitions for leave to intervene must be received by 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. Such petitions must satisfy the substantive requirements of 207 C.M.R. § 1.03(1). The text of the email or written petition must specify: (1) the name of the cable operator; (2) the docket number; (3) the name of the person submitting the filing; (4) that person's municipal title, if any; and (5) a brief descriptive title of the document (e.g., petition to intervene). The petition should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing.

This proceeding has been docketed as D.T.C. 19-5, and is a formal adjudicatory proceeding conducted under G.L. c. 30A and 207 C.M.R. 1.00.

Any requests for reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities or other questions about this hearing should be submitted to Shonda D. Green at shonda.green@mass.gov or (617) 305-3580.



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND CABLE**

D.T.C. 19-5

June 4, 2020

Petition of Comcast Cable Communications, LLC to establish and adjust the basic service tier programming, equipment, and installation rates for the communities in Massachusetts served by Comcast Cable Communications, LLC that are currently subject to rate regulation.

ORDER OF NOTICE

Comcast Cable Communications, LLC ("Comcast") is required to publish the attached legal notice, both by newspaper publication and by cablecasting. *See* G.L. c. 166A, § 15; 207 C.M.R. § 1.06(5)(d). Comcast shall publish the notice in newspapers of general circulation in any affected city or town once in each of two successive weeks, the first publication being not less than 14 days before the day of the hearing. *See* 207 C.M.R. § 1.06(5)(d); *cf.* G.L. c. 166A, § 6.

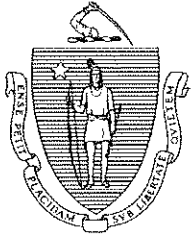
Where Comcast has cablecasting facilities within its control, legal notice shall be cablecast at least twice a week, on separate days, during each of the two weeks preceding the hearing date at times most likely to reach the maximum viewing audience. *See* 207 C.M.R. § 1.06(5)(d). If Comcast does not have cablecasting facilities within its control, it shall use its best efforts to cablecast the prescribed notice in conformance with the timeframe set forth above. *See id.* In addition, Comcast shall provide actual notice to any person who has filed a request for notice with the company. *See id.*

Comcast shall provide the Department of Telecommunications and Cable ("Department") with proof of publication of notice of hearing by the hearing date in this proceeding. *See id.* Such proof shall include, at a minimum, a sworn statement that lists the newspaper(s) in which the legal notice appeared for each community, the dates of newspaper publication, and the dates and times of cablecast publication. All statements of proof of publication shall be accompanied by a written attestation of their accuracy, and shall be entered as sworn statements into the official record in this proceeding.

By Order of the Department,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Merante".

Mark A. Merante
Hearing Officer



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND CABLE**

D.T.C. 19-5

Comcast Cable Communications, Inc.

Petition of Comcast Cable Communications, Inc. to establish and adjust the basic service tier programming, equipment, and installation rates for the communities in Massachusetts served by Comcast Cable Communications, Inc. that are currently subject to rate regulation.

Shonda Green
Department of Telecommunications and Cable
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July 31, 2020

Board of Selectmen
Town of Hatfield
59 Main Street
Hatfield, MA 01038

AUG 03 2020

RE: Comcast Programming Contract Renewal Website

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board:

The channels that we provide to our customers are carried pursuant to contracts with the owners of those channels. These contracts expire from time to time, and one or more may be scheduled to expire in any given month. Negotiating programming rights agreements is a routine part of our business. We have successfully negotiated renewals of thousands of such agreements without incident.

In order to keep our communities informed of potential programming changes, Comcast has created a webpage containing upcoming programming contract expirations. The webpage is available at www.myxfinity.com/contractrenewals/ and will display those channels for which programming contracts are scheduled to expire in the near future. The same information is available by calling 866-216-8634.

At Comcast we are committed to providing our customers with the best in entertainment; we fully expect that we will be able to reach an agreement with the owners of these channels to continue carrying them well into the future. Should that situation change we will notify you immediately.

If you have any questions about this or any other cable matter, please feel free to contact me at 413-730-4513.

Sincerely,

Eileen Leahy
Sr. Manager, Government and Community Relations



JUN 16 2020

June 10, 2020

Board of Selectmen
Town of Hatfield
59 Main Street
Hatfield, MA 01038

RE: Changes to Channel Lineups and Packages

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board:

We are committed to keeping you and our customers informed about changes to Xfinity TV services. Accordingly, please note the following changes:

- On June 9, 2020, AMC Premiere (a Subscription Video OnDemand “SVOD” product) rebranded as AMC+ and SVOD subscribers received access to a new linear AMC+ channel.
- On June 9, 2020, Urban Movie Channel (a Subscription Video OnDemand product) rebranded as WEtv+.
- Effective June 16, 2020, GSN, Investigation Discovery, Travel, and TV Land are now part of the Entertainment genre pack.
- Effective June 16, 2020, EWTN is now part of the Kids & Family genre pack.
- Effective June 16, 2020, Cartoon Network is now part of the Expanded Basic service tier.
- Effective June 16, 2020, the following price reductions will occur:
 - Expanded Basic will be reduced from \$60.02 to \$53.25.
 - Digital Starter will be reduced from \$67.27 to \$60.50.
 - Preferred Package will be reduced from \$85.22 to \$78.45.¹
 - Preferred Double Play with Voice will be reduced from \$130.17 to \$123.40.¹
 - Starter XF Double Play will be reduced from \$132.22 to \$125.45.¹
- The following triple play packages will be available to new customers starting June 16, 2020 and existing customers starting June 30, 2020:

¹ Package is currently not available for new subscriptions.

- **Standard+** More at \$129.99/month includes Limited Basic, Expanded Basic, HD programming, 20 Hour DVR Service, Performance Pro Internet and Unlimited Voice;
 - **Select+** More at \$159.99/month includes Limited Basic, Expanded Basic, Digital Preferred Tier, HD programming, DVR Service, Extreme Pro Internet, and Unlimited Voice;
 - **Signature+** More at \$189.99/month includes Limited Basic, Expanded Basic, Digital Preferred Tier, Epix, HD programming, Premium DVR Service, Gigabit Internet, Unlimited Voice, and Netflix Standard HD Plan; and
 - **Super+** More at \$199.99/month includes Signature+ More, HBO, The Movie Channel (TMC), Showtime and More Sports & Entertainment.
 - Prices exclude Broadcast TV Fee, Regional Sports Fee, taxes and fees.
- The following double play packages will be available to new customers starting June 16, 2020 and existing customers starting June 30, 2020:
 - **Standard+** at \$109.99/month includes Limited Basic, Expanded Basic, HD programming, 20 Hour DVR Service, and Performance Pro Internet;
 - **Select+** at \$139.99/month includes Limited Basic, Expanded Basic, Digital Preferred Tier, HD programming, 20 Hour DVR Service, and Blast! Internet;
 - **Signature+** at \$169.99/month includes Limited Basic, Expanded Basic, Digital Preferred Tier, Epix, HD programming, DVR Service, Extreme Pro Internet, and Netflix Standard HD Plan; and
 - **Super+** at \$189.99/month includes Signature+, HBO, TMC and Showtime.
 - Prices exclude Broadcast TV Fee, Regional Sports Fee, taxes and fees.
 - The following packages will no longer be available to new customers starting June 16, 2020 and to existing customers for new subscription starting June 30, 2020: Super Triple Play, Signature Triple Play, Select Triple Play, Standard Triple Play, Super Double Play, Signature Double Play, Select Double Play, and Standard Double Play. Customers who currently subscribe to one of these packages, will continue to receive the package until they make a change, or they receive further notice.
 - Starting June 18, 2020, Xfinity TV and Xfinity Flex customers subscribing to HBO will now have access to HBO's new streaming platform HBO Max. HBO Max has replaced HBO on our bills.

Please feel free to contact me at 413-730-4513 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Eileen Leahy
Sr. Manager, Government & Regulatory Affairs



June 25, 2020

Board of Selectmen
Town of Hatfield
59 Main Street
Hatfield, MA 01038

RE: Programming Changes

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board:

We are committed to keeping you and our customers informed about changes to Xfinity TV services. Accordingly, please note the following changes to the Xfinity lineup provided in your community:

- On June 23, 2020, Afro HD, BET Her HD, Revolt HD, NBC Universo HD, and Unimas HD will be added to the Digital Preferred service tier; Cleo HD will be added to the Entertainment genre pack and Expanded Basic service tier; Unimas HD, Unimas ALT HD will be added to Xfinity TV Latino; and TFC HD will be added to TFC Filipino and the Filipino 3 pack. Channels require HD Technology Fee and X1 TV Box or compatible customer owned device.
- We were recently notified by Showtime that on July 15, 2020, they plan to cease providing SHO Beyond and will be launching SHO x BET. Like SHO Beyond, SHO x BET will be a secondary multiplex channel of the primary Showtime service and will replace SHO Beyond wherever it is currently offered.
- On July 28, 2020, we plan to add Recipe.TV HD, Justice Central HD, and Comedy.TV HD to the Entertainment genre pack and Expanded Basic service tier. Customers will need an IP-capable device (e.g., Xfinity X1) and the HD Technology Fee in order to view these new channels.
- On July 28, 2020, the Digital Starter service tier will be renamed "Extra".

Customers are receiving notice of these changes in their bill. Please feel free to contact me at 413-730-4513 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Eileen Leahy
Sr. Manager, Government & Regulatory Affairs