

Public Hearing: Attendees Identify Issues for PUC to Address Regarding the Proposed Burlington Telecom Transaction (Case No. 18-0491-PET)

June 4, 2018

At a public hearing in Burlington held by the Public Utility Commission (“PUC”) on May 9, 2018, regarding the PUC investigation into the petition of Champlain Broadband, LLC, the City of Burlington d/b/a Burlington Telecom, and Blue Water Holdings, LLC (the “Joint Petitioners”) for approval pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 109, 231, and 504; 47 U.S.C. §214(e); and Section 438(c)(1) of the City of Burlington Charter, of a transaction in which Champlain Broadband proposes to acquire Burlington Telecom’s assets (the “Transaction”) attendees identified the following issues:

1. The Joint Petitioners should be required to present a current set of financial statements for Burlington Telecom in order to allow the public to understand the financial condition of the company.
2. It is important to consider the value of Burlington Telecom relative to the rest of the market and to evaluate the potential future value.
3. Burlington cares about preserving net neutrality.
4. Local control of Burlington Telecom is important to citizens. In the absence of local control, it is important that the new owner provides assurances that it will adhere to principles like net neutrality.
5. Burlington Telecom is part of the “wealth of this city” and large corporations don’t provide the same customer service.
6. Burlington Telecom provides excellent customer service because they are easy to reach and have answers to help customers.