

(f) The Director shall determine whether an application filed consistent with (d) above establishes a contested case for compensation pursuant to (d). In such an event the matter shall be handled in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.A.C. 52:14B-1 et seq., and the rules of the Office of Administrative Law, N.J.A.C. 1:1-1.1 et seq.

(g) All executed access agreements must be available for inspection by the Office of Cable Television.

Amended by R.2000 d.155, effective April 17, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3061(a), 32 N.J.R. 1402(a).

In (b), rewrote the last sentence of the introductory paragraph; in (c), substituted a reference to cable television companies for a reference to companies in the introductory paragraph; in (e), changed N.J.A.C. references throughout; and rewrote (g).

Case Notes

Access rights section of the Cable Television Act required payment of just compensation to building owners by cable television companies for rights of access and installation. *NYT Cable TV v. Homestead at Mansfield, Inc.*, 111 N.J. 21, 543 A.2d 10 (1988).

Requirement under Board of Public Utilities rule that cable operator who desires to install cable must supply property owner with general description of proposed cable installation adequately describes taking involved to satisfy requirements of due process. *NYT Cable TV v. Homestead At Mansfield, Inc.*, 214 N.J.Super. 148, 518 A.2d 748 (A.D.1986), certification granted 107 N.J. 154, 526 A.2d 213, affirmed 111 N.J. 21, 543 A.2d 10.

Board of Public Utilities' rule regarding just compensation for taking needed for installation of cable television service provides for adequate notice by notice to fee holder notwithstanding claims of interests of tenants, owners of easements and holders of liens. *NYT Cable TV v. Homestead At Mansfield, Inc.*, 214 N.J.Super. 148, 518 A.2d 748 (A.D.1986), certification granted 107 N.J. 154, 526 A.2d 213, affirmed 111 N.J. 21, 543 A.2d 10.

Board of Public Utilities rule regarding just compensation for taking needed for installation of cable television service required that compensation be based on difference between fair market value of property before and after taking. *NYT Cable TV v. Homestead At Mansfield, Inc.*, 214 N.J.Super. 148, 518 A.2d 748 (A.D.1986), certification granted 107 N.J. 154, 526 A.2d 213, affirmed 111 N.J. 21, 543 A.2d 10.

14:18-4.6 Deposits to insure credit

(a) Where the credit of a subscriber is not established or where a subscriber is in default in the payment of bills, the cable television company may require a reasonable deposit as a condition of supplying service or continuing service.

(b) The credit established, by whatever method, shall apply at any location within the area of the cable television company furnishing the service; that is, service is not to be regarded as restricted to a particular location.

(c) The amount of a deposit shall be reasonably related to the charge for service during a billing period, provided such period does not exceed two months.

(d) In all cases where bills are rendered quarterly, semi-annually or annually, the amount of deposit shall not exceed the estimated average charge for service during any two months of the billing period.

(e) In determining the amount of any deposit, there shall be excluded from the average bill such portion thereof, if any, for which payment is received in advance.

(f) Simple interest, at the prevailing rate determined pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.19, shall be paid by the cable television company on all credit deposits held by it, provided the deposit has remained with the cable television company for at least six months. Moneys collected as deposits, pursuant to this section, shall be held in a separate account and shall not be used for any purpose other than the maintenance of subscriber accounts.

(g) Where a subscriber is in default in the payment of bills, service shall not be discontinued for failure to make such deposit except after proper notice, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.9(b).

(h) If a subscriber who has made a deposit fails to pay a bill, the cable television company may apply such deposit insofar as is necessary to liquidate the bill and may require that the deposit be restored to its original amount.

Amended by R.2000 d.155, effective April 17, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3061(a), 32 N.J.R. 1402(a).

In (f), substituted a reference to cable television companies for a reference to companies.

Public Notice: Interest rates on deposits.

See: 33 N.J.R. 136(a).

14:18-4.7 Deposits on auxiliary equipment

(a) When a cable television company supplies auxiliary equipment, such as a converter or other modifying device, to a subscriber's cable television receiving facility, the cable television company may require the payment of a reasonable deposit thereon, provided, however, that said deposit shall not exceed the replacement cost of the unit(s).

(b) The simple interest provision of N.J.A.C. 14:18-4.6 shall apply to auxiliary equipment deposits. However, moneys collected as deposits pursuant to this section may be used by the cable television company to defray the cost of and service to such unit(s).

(c) If the cable television company is required to replace or repair the unit(s) because of subscriber abuse, the cable television company may apply such deposit insofar as is necessary and may require that the deposit be restored to its original amount.

Amended by R.2000 d.155, effective April 17, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3061(a), 32 N.J.R. 1402(a).

In (c), substituted a reference to cable television companies for a reference to companies.

Public Notice: Interest rates on deposits.

See: 33 N.J.R. 136(a).

14:18-4.8 Receipts and records

(a) The cable television company shall furnish a receipt to each subscriber who has made a deposit.

(b) Where return of the deposit is made in cash, surrender of the receipt or, in lieu thereof, proof of identity may be required.

Amended by R.2000 d.155, effective April 17, 2000.
See: 31 N.J.R. 3061(a), 32 N.J.R. 1402(a).

14:18-4.9 Return of deposits

(a) Upon closing any account, the balance of any deposit remaining after the closing bill for service has been settled shall be returned promptly to the depositor with interest due.

(b) With reference to N.J.A.C. 14:18-4.6, Deposits to insure credit, each cable television company shall review a subscriber's account at least once every two years, and if such review indicates that the subscriber has established credit satisfactory to the cable television company, then the outstanding deposit shall be refunded to the subscriber.

(c) With reference to N.J.A.C. 14:18-4.7, Deposits on auxiliary equipment, the amount of deposit shall be refunded to the subscriber upon termination of service and return of the unit(s) in good condition, reasonable wear and tear excepted. If any portion of the deposit is required to offset the cost of replacement or repair necessitated by customer abuse to such unit(s), the difference between such cost and the amount of deposit shall be refunded to the subscriber.

Amended by R.2000 d.155, effective April 17, 2000.
See: 31 N.J.R. 3061(a), 32 N.J.R. 1402(a).

14:18-4.10 Consolidated notice

All notices required by N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.18(a) or (b) may be provided to subscribers in a single annual or quarterly notice, respectively, to each subscriber as long as all required information for each item is included.

SUBCHAPTER 5. OFFICES

14:18-5.1 Location and closing

(a) Each cable television company shall maintain, in or within reasonable proximity of its service area, a local business office, the current location of which shall be furnished to the Office where applications for service, complaints, service inquiries, bill payments, and so forth will be received.

(b) Each cable television company shall furnish the Office with the current location of its offices where maps and records showing the various services areas and facilities are available to supply, upon reasonable request, information to subscribers, governmental bodies, utilities, other cable television companies and contractors.

(c) At least 60 days prior to the closing or relocation of an office described in (a) or (b) above, a cable television company shall file a petition for approval with the Board demonstrating such closure or relocation is not unreasonable, will not unduly prejudice the public interest, and setting forth the means upon Board approval of the petition, by which customers and other interested parties will be adequately notified of the closing or relocation and alternatives available in the case of a closed office. The cable television company shall simultaneously notify its customers and the clerk of each affected municipality of the pending application for permission to relocate or close the subject office by means of posting notice at the office location and, within three days of filing the petition, by placing notice of the office closing or relocation in the newspaper(s) serving the affected area. Said notice shall inform customers of their right to present to the Board, in writing, any objections they may have to the office closure or relocation. The notice shall specify a date certain for submission of comments which date shall not be less than 20 or more than 30 days after publication and posting. Such office shall not be closed or relocated until the cable television company has been informed, in writing, that the Board has approved such request.

(d) Cable television companies are required to maintain and provide toll free or local exchange telephone numbers for use by the general public and subscribers affected by an office closing or relocation for billing, service and sales inquiries. This toll free number or local exchange number shall be posted on any notice at the office location as well as in the notice placed in the newspaper(s), pursuant to (c) above, serving the affected area.

Amended by R.1990 d.415, effective August 20, 1990.
See: 22 N.J.R. 1330(b), 22 N.J.R. 2575(a).

Added (c).

Amended by R.1991 d.82, effective February 19, 1991.
See: 22 N.J.R. 2894(a), 23 N.J.R. 616(a).

Required cable TV companies to apply to the Board for permission to close or relocate an office.

Amended by R.2000 d.155, effective April 17, 2000.
See: 31 N.J.R. 3061(a), 32 N.J.R. 1402(a).

In (c), substituted a reference to cable television companies for a reference to utilities in the last sentence.

14:18-5.2 Personnel to be contacted

(a) Each cable television company shall furnish to the Office and keep current a list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of responsible officials to be contacted in connection with routine matters during normal working hours.

(b) Each cable television company shall also furnish to the Office and keep current a list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of responsible officials who may be contacted in event of emergency during other than normal work-hours.

Amended by R.2000 d.155, effective April 17, 2000.
See: 31 N.J.R. 3061(a), 32 N.J.R. 1402(a).