

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. EC-23, SUB 50

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of	)	
Blue Ridge Electric Membership	)	
Corporation,	)	
	)	
Complainant	)	
	)	
v.	)	ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION
	)	OF TIME TO FILE ANSWER
	)	
Charter Communications Properties, LLC,	)	
	)	
Respondent	)	

BY THE CHAIRMAN: On December 22, 2016, Charter Communications Properties, LLC (Charter), filed a motion requesting that the Commission grant Charter an additional twenty (20) days to file a formal Answer to Blue Ridge Electric Memberships Corporation's (BREMC) Verified Complaint and Petition for Relief. In support of the motion, Charter stated that:

1. This matter was instituted with the filing of a Complaint by BREMC against Charter on November 30, 2016;
2. On December 6, 2016, the Commission issued an Order directing Charter to file an Answer to BREMC's Complaint on or before January 11, 2017;
3. On December 15, 2016, Charter asked BREMC to agree to a thirty day extension of the deadline to file a responsive pleading but BREMC would only agree to extend the deadline by seven (7) days, citing a desire to resolve the dispute expeditiously;
4. Charter is also eager to resolve the dispute expeditiously but believes that extending the deadline for an Answer will allow the parties to engage in negotiations aimed at narrowing the issues before the Commission, while still allowing Charter to prepare a responsive pleading;
5. In light of the holidays and Charter's desire to streamline the issues for consideration by the Commission, an extension of twenty days would give the parties the time necessary to attempt to resolve extraneous issues and for Charter to prepare and submit a response; and

6. During the intervening time, Charter will attempt to work with BREMC to limit the issues in dispute and thereby reduce the burden on the Commission.

On December 29, 2016, BREMC submitted its Objection to [Charter's] Motion for Extension of Time to File Answer (the Objection). In the Objection, BREMC noted that Commission Rule R1-9 of the Rules the Rules and Regulations of the North Carolina Utilities Commission establishes a standard response time of 10 days after the date on which a respondent has been served for the respondent to answer the Complaint, that Commission Rule R1-9 permits the Commission, in its discretion, to shorten or extend the time period in which the respondent is required to respond to the Complaint, and that the Commission extended the time for Charter to respond beyond the established 10 day period by permitting Charter to respond to the Complaint by January 11, 2017. Further, BREMC noted that while BREMC is willing to engage in negotiations in an effort to refine the issues in dispute and perhaps resolve such issues without guidance from the Commission, BREMC's objective is to reach an agreement expeditiously and cost effectively and allowing Charter the full extent of the additional time requested is counter to that objective. BREMC thereafter requested that the Commission enter an order denying Charter's request for an extension of time, or, in the alternative, if the Commission was so inclined to provide Charter with an extension, to enter an order granting a limited extension of time of seven (7) days until January 18, 2017 for Charter to file its answer.

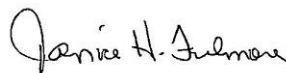
After carefully considering Charter's motion requesting that the Commission grant it an additional twenty days to file a formal Answer to BREMC's Complaint, the representations made therein, the Objection filed by Charter and the record proper, the Chairman, in his discretion, finds that good cause exists to grant Charter an additional twenty days up to and including January 31, 2017, to file an Answer to BREMC's Complaint. Further, the Chairman finds that good cause exists to encourage the parties to engage in negotiations during this extended period in an effort to refine the issues in dispute and to resolve such issues with or without guidance from the Commission.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 30<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION



Janice H. Fulmore, Deputy Clerk