

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND ELECTION PREVIEW

2010 WSTA Plant Conference

January 13-14, 2010

Wilderness

Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Assembly Bill 271:
  - Rep. Fred Clark (D-Baraboo)
  - Defines “practice of professional land surveying” and “professional land surveyor”
  - General exemption for state employees, public utilities and cooperative associations until 2018



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Assembly Bill 271:
  - WSTA supported and adopted Assembly Amendment provides further exemption for telecom employees from easement-related work
  - WSTA supported Senate Amendment would provide additional exemption for “agents” of telecom companies from easement-related work



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Assembly Bill 271:
  - Passed State Assembly on October 27, 2009
  - Public Hearing in Senate on January 7, 2010
  - Outcome: TBD



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Assembly Bill 606:
  - Rep. Gary Hebl (D-Sun Prairie)
  - “Cable Consumer Repair Bill”
  - Opponents response to 2007 WI Act 42 –  
Statewide Video Franchising



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Assembly Bill 606:
  - Transfers franchising authority from DFI to PSC
  - Requires 5-year renewal of franchises
  - “Consumer Protection” fee of \$4,500 (\$2,000) for <10,000 subscribers
  - Restores dedicated funding for PEG channels



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Assembly Bill 606:
  - “Roundtable Discussions & Informational Briefings”:
    - Friday, January 15, 2010 (DePere, WI)
    - Thursday, January 21, 2010 (Oak Creek, WI)
  - Outcome: TBD



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Senate Bill 128/Assembly Bill 220:
  - Sen. Jeff Plale (D-South Milwaukee) and Rep. Jeff Smith (D-Eau Claire)
  - “Competitive Entry & Pricing Flexibility”
  - Senate Bill 285 from last session; passed state Senate on a unanimous voice-vote, but died in state Assembly



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Senate Bill 128/Assembly Bill 220:
  - Provides for statewide CLEC certification in exchange for reduced ILEC regulation of “packages” and “bundles” (cable voice competition)
  - ILEC regulations would remain in place for POTS



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Senate Bill 128/Assembly Bill 220:
  - Outcome: TBD



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Intrastate Access Reform:
  - Sen. Jeff Plale (D-South Milwaukee)
  - Chair, Senate Commerce, Utilities, Energy & Rail Committee
  - AT&T National Policy Priority (Michigan, Missouri & Illinois)
  - ILEC and CLEC mirroring of Interstate rates



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Intrastate Access Reform:
  - Mirroring with safe harbor
  - Alternative replacement revenue (95%, 85%, 75%)
  - Technology neutral participation (CMRS, Cable Voice, VoIP)
  - Reasonable CLEC treatment



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Intrastate Access Reform:
  - 10 months of internal and external discussions and negotiations
  - Public Hearing on Thursday, January 28, 2010
  - Outcome: TBD



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Cell Phone Restrictions:
  - Assembly Bill 341 (GDL)
  - Senate Bill 91 (School Bus Drivers)
  - Senate Bill 103 (Text Messaging)



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- PSC 160 – USF Rules:
  - Affects the administration of Wisconsin’s Universal Service Fund
  - Imposes new regulations and reporting requirements despite a robust competitive marketplace



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- PSC 160 – USF Rules:
  - Inconsistent with FCC requirements
  - Mandates are inconsistent and inefficient
  - Modifications cause more problems than they fix



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- PSC 160 – USF Rules:
  - Several years of PSC consideration and delay
  - WSTA (and others) pursuing a legislative remedy
  - Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 9, 2010
- Outcome: TBD



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Police & Fire Protection Fee:
  - 2009-2011 biennial budget (WI Act 28)
  - \$6.6 billion record deficit
  - \$2.1 billion in taxes and fees



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Police & Fire Protection Fee:
  - \$0.75/month on all “active voice communications service connection” (technology neutral)
  - \$100M funding for local police and fire services
  - September 1, 2009, implementation date
  - Outcome: permanent rule pending (WSTA comments)



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- WSTA Message:
  - Founded in 1910 as the voice of Wisconsin's local phone companies;
  - Diverse industry membership (i.e. ILECs, CLECs, ISPs and CMRS)



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- WSTA Message:
  - Member companies have made significant infrastructure investments, which are keeping Wisconsin's schools and businesses globally competitive;
  - Approximately 82% of all Wisconsin citizens can receive broadband from their ILEC;



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- WSTA Message:
  - Developments in technology now permit digital television to be delivered over the existing fiber network and copper wires entering the customer premise; and
  - CLECs, cable companies, VoIP providers and wireless (CMRS) carriers are “effective competition”



# ELECTION PREVIEW

- Gubernatorial Election:
  - Gov. Jim Doyle not seeking re-election
  - Lt. Gov. Barb Lawton not seeking re-election
  - Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker (R)
  - City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett (D)



# ELECTION PREVIEW

- State Senate Elections:
  - Currently controlled 18-15 DEMS
  - 17 of 33 seats up for election
  - Sen. Jim Sullivan (Wauwatosa), Sen. Kathleen Vinehout (Alma), Sen. Pat Kreitlow (Chippewa Falls) and Sen. John Lehman (Racine)



# ELECTION PREVIEW

- State Assembly Elections:
  - Currently controlled 52-46-1 DEMS
  - All 99 seats up for election
  - Rep. Fred Clark (Baraboo), Rep. Mark Radcliffe (Black River Falls), Rep. Kristen Dexter (Eau Claire), Rep. Kim Hixson (Whitewater), Rep. Ted Zigmunt (Francis Creek) and Rep. Jeff Wood (Bloomer)



# **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND ELECTION PREVIEW**

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?**

**Thank You!**

