

January 19, 2016

TO ALL MANNINGTON TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS:

Mannington Township has joined in with Cumberland County and various municipalities in other counties in a petition against Verizon before the Board of Public Utilities (BPU). The petition is to seek an order from the PBU to investigate and rectify Verizon's discontinuance of maintenance of copper landline facilities and infrastructure which are instrumental to the continued provision of adequate landline telephone and data service to New Jersey customers who are without fiber optic service. The failure of Verizon to comply with its obligations in accordance with the Opportunity New Jersey to provide fiber optic service throughout the State of New Jersey and the determination by Verizon to discontinue landline maintenance will effectively cripple the capability of customers in rural areas to maintain adequate telephone, data, and internet service. Verizon has provided fiber optic service availability in other areas of New Jersey but has neglected and refused to provide such service to the Petitioners' communities. This Petition is being filed in an effort to have the Board investigate Verizon's refusal to continue landline copper infrastructure maintenance and to issue an order or orders to Verizon requiring that landlines be maintained and preserved until such time as rural communities have been fully built out with fiber optic telecommunication services, affording them the same quality telephone, internet, and data services as are enjoyed by other communities within the State of New Jersey. Alternately, the Petitioners assert that Verizon should be compelled to meet its Opportunity New Jersey obligations to provide statewide fiber optic service and to ensure that all areas of the State are being provided with equal service.

The County of Cumberland is the lead agency for the Petition and they have set up an internet portal on their website to gather information with respect to service unavailability for residents in our community and the other communities involved. If you have had issues with Verizon service, please take a moment to visit the website and report them. The web address is: <http://www.co.cumberland.nj.us>. You will see a link in the top middle section of the page that you may click on and complete the form. After completing the form, please select the Submit button to send it electronically.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

MANNINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE