



QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE BOARD

COVERING THE PERIOD 1 JULY – 30 SEPTEMBER 2011

ECS 02/2012

16 January 2012

1. Introduction

As part of its continuing commitment to accountability and transparency, the Board of URCA is pleased to publish its Quarterly Report for the Third Quarter of 2011, covering the period 1 July to 30 September 2011.

2. Audit Committee - Summary of Key Actions

Audit Committee Annual Report for 2010: The Annual Report, presented by the Audit Committee to the Board for the period 1 November 2009 to 31 December 2010, was published on 11 August 2011.

3. Board - Summary of Key Actions – Operations

- URCA's CEO, Mr. Usman Saadat, demitted office on 31 August 2011. The Non-Executive Members of the Board have been responsible for managing the interview and selection process for a new CEO.
- Funds owed to the Government Consolidated Fund: URCA reduced its balance by \$0.5 million, leaving a balance of \$1.1 million to be settled no later than June 2012.

4. Board - Summary of Key Actions – Regulatory

- Market Reviews – Significant Market Power: The public consultation closed on 15 July 2011. The responses were published on URCA's website on 1 July and 15 July (2nd round), respectively.
- Number Portability: URCA is working towards the formation and deliberations of the Number Portability Working Group, which will develop and make recommendations on the outstanding technical and administrative issues relating to the implementation of Number Portability in The Bahamas.
- Retail Price Regulation
 - Application for Permanent Price Change for Calls to Automated Ancillary Services (ECS 18/2011): URCA approved BTC's zero based rates for both retail and wholesale ancillary services (weather and time/temperature by phone).
 - Directory Enquiries: The Board reviewed, and approved the public consultation document which was launched on 21 September 2011. The deadline for responses was 24 October 2011.
- Broadcasting
 - Content Codes: The Working Group meetings concluded, and URCA is incorporating the revisions proposed by the Working Group into a set of draft Codes of Practice for public consultation.

- Investigation into alleged breach of Interim Content Codes of Practice: Pursuant to the Final Determination and Order issued to Bartlett-McWeeney Communications Limited (GEMS FM Radio 109.5) on 15 August 2011, the Licensee failed to provide URCA with the original recording of the entirety of two programmes hosted by Mr. Steve McKinney and broadcast by the Licensee on its broadcast station on 24 February and 10 March 2011. Accordingly, the Licensee was assessed a fine of \$5,000, pursuant to section 95(2)(b) and section 109(1) and (5) of the Communications Act for breaching the Interim Codes.
- Accounting Separation
 - The Board was advised that BTC had submitted its unaudited separated accounts for 2010, and must submit its audited separated accounts by 30 November 2011.
 - The Board was advised that CBL submitted its audited separated accounts on 31 August, and they were being reviewed by URCA.
- Interconnection Dispute between BTC and SRG: The Board discussed, and agreed to extend to 14 October 2011 the Interim Order issued by URCA to BTC and SRG.
- During the Quarter under review, the Board approved regulatory and other measures, including those that resulted in the following documents being published:
 - (1) Statement of Results on Public Service Broadcasting (ECS 13/2011).
 - (2) The Bahamas National Numbering Plan (ECS 17/2011).
 - (3) Final Determination and Order to Bartlett-McWeeney Communications Ltd.
 - (4) Public Consultation on BTC's Retail Charging Proposals for Calls to Local Directory Enquiry (ECS 18/2011).
 - (5) Final Determinations and Orders to Simon Smith, trading as Island WISP, Complete Business Systems Ltd. and Pacific Wireless Company.
 - (6) Public Notice of approval of BTC's application to remove Inter-Island Toll Charges for Mobile-Originated Calls.
 - (7) Market update on compliance with SMP Obligations by BTC.
 - (8) Market update on approval of BTC's charging proposals for Calls to Automated Ancillary Services.