

VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC
Form DEFA14A
March 16, 2009

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A
(RULE 14a-101)

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities

Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12

VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC.

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(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

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- No fee required.
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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The following Letter to the Editor from Peter W. Thonis, Chief Communications Officer of Verizon Communications Inc., was published in the March 16, 2009 issue of Crain's New York Business.

* * *

Your article on executive compensation (March 9) takes a gratuitous swipe at Verizon's policies. While rightly calling Verizon a company that has better aligned its pay policies with the times, the article goes on to quote two pension funds that argue shareholders should not pay for unearned compensation citing, inaccurately, our CEO's death benefit.

In fact, upon the death of Verizon's CEO, not a single dime of severance would be paid to his estate. A portion of his death benefit would be a payment from his life insurance company, and another potential portion would be the payment of previously reported income that would vest at the time of his death. This income is entirely at risk, depending on the company's stock price performance over three years' time.

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IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On February 26, 2009, Verizon filed its preliminary proxy statement (the Preliminary Proxy Statement) with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) relating to its 2009 annual meeting of shareholders (the Annual Meeting). Verizon expects to file with the SEC its definitive proxy statement (the Definitive Proxy Statement) relating to the Annual Meeting on or about March 23, 2009. Shareholders are strongly advised to read the Definitive Proxy Statement, as well as any supplements thereto or other relevant documents that Verizon files with the SEC, when they become available because they will contain important information. Shareholders are able to obtain copies of the Preliminary Proxy Statement and will be able to obtain copies of the Definitive Proxy Statement and any other documents filed by Verizon with the SEC in connection with the Annual Meeting free of charge at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov or on Verizon's investor relations website at www.verizon.com/investor.

Verizon and its directors and its executive officers may be deemed participants in the solicitation of proxies from shareholders in connection with the Annual Meeting. Information concerning Verizon's directors and executive officers and their respective interests in Verizon by security holdings or otherwise is available in the Preliminary Proxy Statement and in Verizon's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, filed with the SEC on February 24, 2009.