



PUBLIC NOTICE

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DA 01-1173
Released: May 8, 2001

REMINDER TO COMMON CARRIERS REGARDING DISCONTINUANCE OF DOMESTIC SERVICE UNDER SECTION 214 OF THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT

The Network Services Division of the Common Carrier Bureau reminds common carriers that section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934 requires that they obtain Commission authorization before discontinuing, reducing, or impairing domestic common carrier service.¹ Part 63 of the Commission's rules, which implements section 214, provides for a streamlined public notice and automatic grant process for obtaining authority to discontinue domestic service.²

Common carriers are also reminded that the requirements of section 214 apply to discontinuances of domestic service of all types, including but not limited to discontinuances resulting from sales of exchanges by local exchange carriers, sales of customer bases by interexchange resellers, and dissolutions of business or bankruptcy. Common carriers are further reminded that these requirements are separate from and in addition to the requirements in the Commission's rules designed to prevent slamming,³ and that, when carriers comply with, or obtain waivers of, the Commission's slamming rules to facilitate their acquisitions of customer bases, the selling carriers in such transactions must comply with the Commission's Part 63 discontinuance rules.

Questions regarding these matters should be directed to Marty Schwimmer of the Common Carrier Bureau's Network Services Division at (202) 418-2320 or by e-mail at mschwimm@fcc.gov.

-FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION-

¹ 47 U.S.C. §214.

² See 47 C.F.R. § 63.71. Section 214 also requires prior Commission authorization for construction, acquisition, operation, and transmission over lines of communication, for which section 63.01 the Commission's rules grants blanket domestic authorization. 47 C.F.R. § 63.01. See Implementation of Section 402(B)(2)(A) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Petition for Forbearance of the Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Alliance, *Report & Order* in CC Docket No. 97-11 and *Second Memorandum Opinion & Order* in AAD File No. 98-4314, FCC Rcd 11364 (1999).

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 64.1100 *et seq.*