



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Fax-On-Demand 202 / 418-2830
TTY 202 / 418-2555
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
<ftp.fcc.gov>

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COMMON CARRIER BUREAU EXTENDS THE TIME TO FILE REPLY COMMENTS ON VERIZON'S MAY 1ST LETTER CONCERNING RELIEF FROM BELL ATLANTIC/GTE MERGER CONDITIONS

CC Docket No. 98-184

Extended Filing Date

Reply Comment Date: June 28, 2001

On May 31, 2001, the Commission released a Public Notice in CC Docket No. 98-184 establishing the pleading cycle for comments on the May 1st letter filed by Verizon, requesting relief from one of the conditions in the *BA/GTE Merger Order*.¹ The Public Notice required parties to file comments on or before June 14, 2001 and reply comments on or before June 21, 2001.

On June 13th, the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) experienced difficulties and was taken off-line for repairs. ECFS is the means by which the public may view electronically either paper or electronic comments filed with the Commission. ECFS came back online on June 18th, however, because of the resulting backlog in documents to be posted, comments filed with the Commission in the instant proceeding on Friday, June 14th, were unavailable for viewing as of yesterday.

It is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time are not routinely provided.² In this instance, however, the Bureau will provide parties with an extension of one week in which to file reply comments. The Bureau determines that no party will be prejudiced by a one-week extension and that the Commission will benefit from the additional views that may result from this brief extension. We do caution parties, however, that while it is a goal of the Commission to make our proceedings more

¹ Letter from Gordon R. Evans, Vice President, Federal Regulatory, Verizon, to Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary, FCC (May 1, 2001).

² See 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

accessible to the public by, among other things, posting comments using the ECFS, the burden remains on interested parties to contact the Secretary to determine whether comments have been received in a particular proceeding. Furthermore, regardless of whether the ECFS is online, as always, paper copies are available at the Commission's Reference Information Center.

Accordingly, interested parties may now file reply comments on or before **June 28, 2001**. For further information contact Cathy Carpino, Policy and Program Planning Division, Common Carrier Bureau, at (202) 418-1580 or ccarpino@fcc.gov.

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