

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the matter of)
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Accounting Safeguards Under the)
Telecommunications Act of 1996) CC Docket No. 96-150
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ORDER

Adopted: August 14, 2001

Released: August 15, 2001

By the Chief, Accounting Safeguards Division:

1. On June 21, 2001, the Common Carrier Bureau (“Bureau”) released a public notice seeking comment on the audit report of Verizon Communications, Inc. (“Verizon”) in accordance with the Commission’s rules and procedures implementing section 272(d) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. We grant an extension of time for filing comments to resolve certain issues explained below.

2. On June 11, 2001, Verizon submitted its first section 272(d) biennial audit report addressing its compliance with the section 272 non-accounting and accounting safeguards. Verizon supplemented its submission on June 18, 2001. Verizon requested confidential treatment of some information contained in the section 272(d) biennial audit report. As a result, Verizon submitted both redacted and complete versions of its section 272(d) biennial audit report. Pursuant to the Commission’s rules, the Bureau established a sixty-day period for public comment. The redacted version of the audit report was available to commenters.

3. On August 7, 2001, AT&T Corporation (“AT&T”) submitted a letter requesting access to the redacted information and an extension of time to review the audit report without the current redactions. In addition, AT&T raises certain issues regarding Verizon’s request for confidential treatment.

4. We grant an extension of time until October 22, 2001 for submitting comments on Verizon’s section 272(d) biennial audit report. An extension of time will afford the Bureau an opportunity to evaluate and consider the issues raised, while preserving the public’s ability to comment on the audit report.

5. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.201-0.204, 1.3, 53.209-53.213, the comment period for the Verizon section 272(d) biennial audit report IS EXTENDED to October 22, 2001.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Kenneth P. Moran
Chief, Accounting Safeguards Division, CCB