The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) provides notice that it is initiating a proceeding to consider a petition filed by ALLTEL Communications, Inc. (ALLTEL) requesting the Commission’s agreement with the Michigan Public Service Commission’s (Michigan Commission) decision to redefine the “service areas” of certain rural telephone companies in the state of Michigan. Pursuant to section 54.207(c)(3) of the Commission’s rules, the Bureau has 90 days from the release date of a Public Notice to initiate a proceeding to consider a petition to redefine the service area of a rural telephone company. The Wireline Competition Bureau released a Public Notice seeking comment on ALLTEL’s petition on December 30, 2003. The comment cycle established by that Public Notice closed on January 29, 2004.

The Michigan Commission proposes to redefine the service areas of the following rural telephone companies: Century Telephone - Midwest, Inc., Century Telephone Company of Northern Michigan, Century Telephone of Michigan, CenturyTel of Upper Michigan, Pigeon Telephone Company,
Shiawassee Telephone Company, and Wolverine Telephone Company (collectively, Rural Telcos). The Michigan Commission proposes to redefine each Rural Telco service area into service areas that are coterminous with wire center boundaries.

Pursuant to section 1.1206 of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, this proceeding will be conducted as a permit-but-disclose proceeding in which ex parte communications are permitted subject to disclosure. For further information, contact Thomas Buckley, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-7400, TTY (202) 418-0484.

---


6 See Petition at 2; Michigan Order at 15-16.