PUBLIC NOTICE

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SECTION 272 SUNSETS FOR VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS, INC. IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND BY OPERATION OF LAW ON FEBRUARY 24, 2005 PURSUANT TO SECTION 272(f)(1)

WC Docket No. 02-112

The provisions of section 272 (other than section 272(e)) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the Act), applicable to Bell Operating Company (BOC) provision of in-region, interLATA telecommunications services sunset for the operations of Verizon Communications, Inc. (Verizon) in the state of Rhode Island by operation of law as provided in section 272(f)(1), effective February 24, 2005.

Section 272 of the Act requires BOCs to provide in-region, interLATA telecommunications services through separate corporate affiliates, subject to certain safeguards. 47 U.S.C. § 272(a)(2). Section 272(f)(1) provides that the provisions in section 272 (other than section 272(e)) expire three years after a BOC or BOC affiliate is authorized under section 271 to provide in-region, interLATA services, unless the Commission extends such 3-year period by rule or order. 47 U.S.C. § 272(f)(1).

The Commission granted Verizon section 271 authorization for the provision of in-region, interLATA services in the state of Rhode Island in an order released on February 24, 2002.[1] Pursuant to section 272(f)(1), section 272 (other than section 272(e)) sunsets by operation of law for Verizon in the state of Rhode Island, effective February 24, 2005.[2]

For further information, please contact Jon Minkoff, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at (202) 418-1580.

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[1] *Application by Verizon New England Inc., Bell Atlantic Communications, Inc. (d/b/a Verizon Long Distance), NYNEX Long Distance Company (d/b/a Verizon Enterprise Solutions), Verizon Global Networks Inc., and Verizon Select Services Inc., for Authorization to Provide In-Region, InterLATA Services in Rhode Island,* CC Docket No. 01-324, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 17 FCC Rcd 3300 (2002).

[2] *See Section 272(f)(1) Sunset of the BOC Separate Affiliate and Related Requirements*, WC Docket No. 02-112, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 17 FCC Rcd 26869 (2002) (finding that section 272(f)(1) is best interpreted as providing for a state-by-state sunset).