



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

DA 98-1058

News media information 202/418-0500 Fax-On-Demand 202/418-2830 Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov> <ftp.fcc.gov> TTYs-Network
Services 202/418-0484 and Informal Complaints 202/418-0485

Released: June 4, 1998

SWBT REQUEST FOR FORBEARANCE FROM THE APPLICATION OF SECTION 272 OF THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT TO PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICES GRANTED THROUGH OPERATION OF LAW

CC Docket No. 96-149

On June 4, 1997, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) filed a petition requesting forbearance from the application of section 272 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Communications Act), 47 U.S.C. § 272, to SWBT's telecommunications relay services (TRS). TRS functions via relay centers in which communications assistants facilitate communications involving individuals with hearing or speech disabilities. SWBT's June 4, 1997, petition concerned a TRS relay center that SWBT maintains in Kansas. In its petition, SWBT sought forbearance from section 272's structural and transactional requirements to the extent they applied to TRS operations involving that center. SWBT wished to continue to operate these relay centers on an integrated basis, as it had been previously authorized to do for several years, and thereby avoid potential service disruptions and increased costs.

Section 10(c) of the Communications Act states that "[a]ny [forbearance] petition shall be deemed granted if the Commission does not deny the petition for failure to meet the requirements for forbearance under subsection (a) within one year after the Commission receives it, unless the one-year period is extended by the Commission." 47 U.S.C. § 160(c). In accordance with section 10(c), SWBT's petition shall be deemed granted as of June 4, 1998.

For further information, contact William A. Kehoe III at 202-418-7122 or Eric J. Bash at 202-418-1188.

- FCC -