



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 12th STREET, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

DA 99-1032

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

Released: May 28, 1999

Bell Atlantic Petitions for Establishment of New Rate Elements to Provide Switched Access Facilities Management Service

Pleading Cycle Established

CCB/CPD NO. 99-21

COMMENTS: June 28, 1999

REPLY COMMENTS: July 13, 1999

On May 24, 1999, Bell Atlantic filed a petition to initiate switched access facilities management service ("FMS"). Bell Atlantic asserts that switched access FMS will enable carriers to turn over the management of their switched access transport facilities to Bell Atlantic, and to purchase only the amount of facility capacity necessary to meet their actual transport needs. In its petition Bell Atlantic requests authority to establish four new rate elements.

The new rate elements proposed by Bell Atlantic include FMS Primary Premises Channel Termination, FMS Channel Mileage, FMS Multiplexing, and FMS Administration. The FMS Primary Premises Channel Termination rate element provides network interface and entrance facilities provisioned by Bell Atlantic between the customer's point of presence and its serving wire center. Channel terminations are offered with a DS1, DS3, or SONET Access Loop Termination interface. The FMS Channel Mileage rate element specifies fixed and per-mile charges for interoffice facilities. The rate will vary depending on the configuration of the customer's service, i.e., DS1 or DS3 primary premises channel terminations. Mileage will be calculated based upon whether the customer has purchased tandem access trunks or direct end office trunks. With tandem access trunks, the mileage will be calculated from the point of presence serving wire center to the access tandem location. With direct end office trunks, the mileage will be calculated from the point of presence serving wire center to the end office where the switched access trunks are terminated. The FMS Multiplexing rate element provides the multiplexing equipment required to deliver the desired transport rate the customer's primary premises, e.g., DS1 voice grade and/or DS3 to DS1. The FMS Administration rate element provides customers with network management that includes expanding and/or rearranging facilities to meet customer service requests.

Bell Atlantic asserts that grant of its petition would serve the public interest by satisfying customer demand for a switched access FMS product. In addition, carriers will be able to purchase only the facility capacity they actually require to serve their long distance customers, and will no longer need to incur the cost of managing their networks. According to Bell Atlantic, availability of switched access FMS will particularly benefit small carriers that are most likely paying for more unused facility capacity than larger carriers, and because network management costs of small carriers typically are higher per unit of demand than those of larger carriers. Finally, Bell Atlantic claims that switched access FMS will allow the company to realize greater network efficiencies that will create cost savings, ultimately benefitting customers.

Interested parties may file comments no later than June 28, 1999. Reply comments may be filed no later than July 13, 1999. When filing comments, please reference the internal file number: CCB/CPD 99-21.

An original and four copies of all comments must be filed in accordance with Section 1.51(c) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.51(c). In addition, one copy of each pleading must be filed with International Transcription Services (ITS), the Commission's duplicating contractor, at its office at 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, and one copy with the Chief, Competitive Pricing Division, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room 5-A225, Washington, D.C. 20554.

For further information, contact Jennifer McKee, Competitive Pricing Division, Common Carrier Bureau, (202) 418-1520, TTY (202) 418-0484.

- FCC -