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Federal Communications Commission
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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See *MCI v. FCC*, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AUTHORIZES VERIZON TO PROVIDE LONG DISTANCE SERVICE IN MASSACHUSETTS

Five States Now Approved For Section 271 Long Distance Service

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today voted to approve Verizon’s application to provide in-region, interLATA, or long distance, service originating in Massachusetts. Approval of Verizon’s long distance application promises substantial benefits for consumers in the form of new service providers, lower prices, tailored and bundled service packages, and better customer service.

The Commission, applying the same standard it has developed and applied over the last several long distance applications, has now approved five states for in-region, long distance service.

With the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress envisioned fundamental, pro-competitive changes in the telecommunications markets by making a Bell Operating Company’s (BOC) entry into the long distance market subject to the BOC first opening its local service monopoly to competition. A BOC satisfies this contingency by demonstrating compliance with section 271 of the 1996 Act. After a BOC files a section 271 long distance application with the Commission, the Commission has 90 days to determine whether a BOC has taken the statutorily required steps to open its local telecommunications markets to competition, including compliance with the 1996 Act’s section 271 14-point “competitive checklist.”

Summary of Competitive Activity

Verizon filed its initial application for section 271 authority for Massachusetts on September 22, 2000, but withdrew it and re-filed an application on January 16, 2001. Following is a summary of the competitive activity for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

- Competitors serve more than 513,000 local telephone lines on a facilities basis.
- Competitors serve more than 93,000 unbundled loops.
- Competitors serve more than 238,000 business resold lines and more than 30,000 residential resold lines.

Since the passage of the 1996 Act, the FCC has denied five long distance applications, and now has approved applications for long distance entry into five states. Currently, there is one pending long distance application before the Commission, SBC's Missouri.

The Commission emphasizes that Verizon must continue to comply with the section 271 checklist requirements, and the Commission has a number of enforcement tools at its disposal, including imposing penalties or suspension of approval.

Action by the Commission April 16, 2001, by Memorandum Opinion and Order (FCC 01-130). Chairman Powell and Commissioner Ness issuing separate statements; Commission Furchtgott-Roth concurring issuing a statement; and Commissioner Tristani dissenting and issuing a statement.

-FCC-

Docket No.: CC 01-9

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News about the Federal Communications Commission can also be found on the Commission's web site www.fcc.gov.