



NEWS

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

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

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).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 10, 2002

Contact: David Fiske, 202/418-0513
Mike Balmoris, 202/418-0253

STATEMENT OF FCC CHAIRMAN MICHAEL POWELL ON WITHDRAWAL OF QWEST'S MULTI-STATE 271 APPLICATIONS

Washington, DC – Qwest has withdrawn its applications to provide long distance service in the following nine states: Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, Montana, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. The FCC cannot approve such applications by the Bell Companies unless they satisfy the requirements of sections 271 and 272 of the Communications Act.

In my view, Qwest's applications were generally very strong. Ultimately, the outstanding issues were very narrow, but nonetheless important. Despite extensive examination of the record supporting these applications, questions remain regarding whether Qwest has complied with the safeguards set forth by Congress in section 272 of the Act. Section 272 governs how a Bell Company's long distance separate affiliate operates. In these applications, Qwest did much to otherwise demonstrate that it has complied with the market-opening provisions of the section 271 competitive checklist.

The Commission would like to thank all of the state utility commissions and the Regional Oversight Committee for their outstanding work and enormous contribution to this proceeding. I am confident that Qwest, in consultation with the states, Department of Justice, and this Commission, will expeditiously resolve the outstanding issue that prevented approval.

-FCC-