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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 SBC TO PROVIDE LONG DISTANCE SERVICE IN NEVADA

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced that it voted to approve SBC Communications' (SBC) application to provide in-region, interLATA service originating in Nevada. Approval of SBC's application promises benefits to consumers in Nevada by making increased competition in all markets for telecommunications services possible.

With the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act), 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 FCC, the FCC 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."

Since the passage of the 1996 Act, the FCC has denied five long distance applications and now has approved applications to provide in-region, long distance service in 38 states and the District of Columbia. Additionally, applications for 16 states have been withdrawn. Currently, there are section 271 applications for five states – Qwest's multi-state application for New Mexico, Oregon, and South Dakota, SBC's application for Michigan and Qwest's application for Minnesota – pending before the FCC. A summary of all section 271 applications can be accessed at the following FCC web page:

www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/in-region_applications/

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

-FCC-

Docket No.: WC 03-10

Action by the Commission April 14, 2003, by Memorandum Opinion and Order (FCC 03-80). Commissioners Martin and Adelstein issuing separate statements; Commissioner Copps concurring and issuing a statement.

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