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Federal Communications Commission
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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. Cir. 1974).

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AUTHORIZES SBC TO PROVIDE LONG DISTANCE SERVICE IN MICHIGAN

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

The Michigan Commission states that competing carriers provided service to 21.7% of all lines in Michigan, as of December 2002. Additionally, of the estimated 1,447,176 competitive carrier lines, there were 58,617 resold lines, 932,667 lines served via UNE-platform, 264,000 lines served via unbundled network facilities, and an estimated 148,691 lines served over the competing carriers' own self-provided facilities.

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 now approved applications to provide in-region, long distance service in 43 states and the District of Columbia, and denied five long distance applications. Additionally, applications for 17 states have been withdrawn. Currently, there are two section 271 applications pending before the FCC – SBC's multi-state application for Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin, and Qwest's application for Arizona. 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 FCC has a number of enforcement tools at its disposal to ensure compliance, including imposing penalties or suspension of approval.

-FCC-

Docket No.: WC 03-138

Action by the Commission September 17, 2003, by Memorandum Opinion and Order (FCC 03-228). Commissioners Copps and Adelstein issuing separate statements.

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