

# NEWS

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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. Cir. 1974).

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**PRESS STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL**  
**WATERSHED MOMENT FOR TELECOM: NO MORE LOCAL MARKETS**  
*End of the Road for the 271 Process*

Today the Federal Communications Commission completed work on the 49<sup>th</sup> and final application of a regional Bell company seeking to offer long-distance service, marking the completion of the process known as 271.

“We’re at the end of a long and difficult road,” said FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell. “The barrier between local and long distance service has finally been removed. The 271 process has contributed to the creation of true facilities-based competition that promises significant long-term benefits for individuals and the economy. Consumers throughout the country will continue to enjoy innovative new choices that make the concept of separate local and long distance markets a thing of the past.”

Under section 271 of the Telecommunications Act, the Bell Operating Companies file applications with the FCC on a state-by-state basis in order to provide in-region long-distance services. These companies must meet a series of criteria to ensure competitive requirements are met prior to approval.

“While the application process is now complete, our work is not completely done. The FCC will be vigilant in ensuring that Bell companies continue to meet the competitive checklist through various enforcement tools at the FCC’s disposal including section 271(d)(6),” said Powell.

“This result would not have been possible without the tremendous effort and hard work of the Commission’s staff and Commissioners over the past six years,” said Powell. “I am incredibly proud of what we’ve accomplished.”