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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. Cir. 1974).

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NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Michael Balmoris 202-418-0253
Email: mbalmori@fcc.gov

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AUTHORIZES QWEST TO PROVIDE LONG DISTANCE SERVICE IN MINNESOTA

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

Qwest stated in its application that, as of December 31, 2002, competing carriers served approximately 26% of all lines in Minnesota.

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 42 states and the District of Columbia, and denied five long distance applications. Additionally, applications for 17 states have been withdrawn. Currently, there is one section 271 application pending before the FCC – SBC's application for Michigan. 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 Qwest 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 03-90

Action by the Commission June 25, 2003, by Memorandum Opinion and Order (FCC 03-142). Commissioners Copps and Adelstein issuing separate statements.

Wireline Competition Bureau Staff Contact: Gail Cohen at 202-418-1580

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