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Federal Communications Commission

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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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## **FCC AUTHORIZES SBC TO PROVIDE LONG DISTANCE SERVICE IN ILLINOIS, INDIANA, OHIO AND WISCONSIN**

### ***SBC Becomes Third Regional Bell Company to Obtain Authorization to Provide Long Distance Service throughout its Region***

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to approve SBC's application to provide in-region, interLATA service originating in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin. Approval of SBC's multi-state application promises benefits to consumers by making increased competition in all markets for telecommunications services possible.

In its application, SBC stated that competitive local exchange carriers (LECs) were serving at least 2.3 million access lines in Illinois (29% of all access lines); at least 393,000 access lines in Indiana (15% of all access lines); at least 885,000 access lines in Ohio (20% of all access lines); and at least 633,000 access lines in Wisconsin (25% of all access lines), as of May 2003.

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 47 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 Additionally, applications for 17 states have been withdrawn.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 – 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/](http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/in-region_applications/)

-- more --

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 03-167

Action by the Commission October 15, 2003, by Report and Order (FCC 03-243).  
Commissioners Copps, Martin and Adelstein issuing separate statements.

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on the Commission's web site [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov).