

FCC Authorizes Verizon To Provide Long Distance Service In Vermont

Washington, DC, April 18, 2002. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) unanimously approved Verizon's application to provide in-region, interLATA service originating in Vermont.

In approving the application, the FCC found that competing carriers serve approximately 21,500 lines in Vermont, including approximately 5,600 lines using unbundled network elements or their own facilities, and approximately 15,900 lines through resale. The FCC also concluded that approval of Verizon's application promises substantial benefits for the state's consumers in the form of enhanced competition in both the local and long distance markets. Although such statements are not generally viewed as having much meaning, in approving its application, the FCC reminded Verizon that it was retaining jurisdiction over the matter, that Verizon must continue to comply with the checklist requirements of Section 271, and that it could impose penalties or suspend its approval should Verizon fail to meet these requirements in the future.

Since the passage of the 1996 Act, the FCC has approved applications to provide in-region, long distance service in eleven states, has denied five applications and applications for seven states have been withdrawn. Currently, applications for four additional states are pending before the FCC. A summary of all Section 271 applications can be accessed at the FCC website as follows: www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/in-region_applications/.

If you would like additional information on this proceeding or on market entry issues generally, please feel free to give us a call or email us at mail@tlgdc.com