

**BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
SBC Michigan's Requests for Limited)	
Modifications of LATA Boundaries in)	
Michigan)	WC Docket No. 04-27
_____)	

**COMMENTS OF THE
MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
IN SUPPORT OF SBC MICHIGAN'S
REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION OF LATA BOUNDARIES**

Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") procedural schedule established in the above docket, the Michigan Public Service Commission ("MPSC") hereby submits its comments.

I. INTRODUCTION

On February 5, 2004, the FCC requested comments regarding nine petitions submitted by SBC Michigan requesting modification of local access and transport area ("LATA") boundaries.¹ Granting the petitions would allow SBC to provide flat or message-rated, non-optional expanded local calling service to exchanges currently separated by federally-mandated LATA lines.²

¹ FCC, Public Notice, WC Docket No. 04-27, DA 04-314, February 5, 2004.

² Exchanges include: Byron and Fowlerville, Olivet and Springport, Marshal and Springport, Marshall and Homer, Birch Run and Montrose, Fowlerville and Gregory, Portland and Fowler/Pewamo, Farwell and Marion, Fowlerville and Bancroft.

II. DISCUSSION

Each of the nine petitions was accompanied by the MPSC order³ requiring Michigan carriers to implement expanded local calling in compliance with the Michigan Telecommunications Act (“MTA”).⁴ In addition, SBC Michigan received approval from the FCC to provide in-region long-distance services, within and across LATA boundaries pursuant to Section 271 of the Federal Telecommunications Act (“Section 271”) on September 19, 2003.⁵ Prior to receiving Section 271 approval, SBC Michigan could not transport local or long distance calls across LATA boundaries.

On April 29, 2003, the FCC approved 55 SBC Michigan petitions to provide local calling between specific exchanges or geographic areas.⁶ With the current petition, SBC Michigan is requesting approval to complete local calls across LATA boundaries, in accordance with the MTA and the Section 271 approval, to ensure that the intention of the Michigan legislature and the desire of Michigan customers are brought to fruition.

³ MPSC, Opinion and Order, *In the Matter, on the Commission’s Own Motion, of the Implementation of Amendments to the Michigan Telecommunications Act and In the Matter, on the Commission’s Own Motion, of the Implementation of the Local Calling Area Provisions of the Amended Michigan Telecommunications Act*, U-12515 and U-12528, February 5, 2001.

⁴ §304(11) MCL 484.2304(11) added by 2000 PA 295 (requiring that “A call made to a local calling area adjacent to the caller’s local calling area shall be considered a local call and billed as a local call.”)

⁵ Memorandum and Order, *In the Matter of Application by SBC Communications Inc., Michigan Bell Telephone Company, and Southwestern Bell Communications Services, Inc. for Authorization to Provide In-Region, InterLATA Services in Michigan*, WC Docket No. 03-138, September 17, 2003.

⁶ Memorandum and Order, *In the Matter of Ameritech Petitions for Limited Modification of LATA Boundaries to Provide Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS)*, NSD-L-01-151, April 29, 2003.

Creating local calling areas provides Michigan customers with lower costs and additional competitive choices.

III. CONCLUSION

The MPSC requests that the FCC grant the nine petitions enabling SBC Michigan to provide local calling to adjacent exchanges across LATA boundaries in Michigan. By granting the petitions, the FCC furthers consumer expectations for adjacent exchange local calling areas and allows for additional choices in telecommunications carriers.

Respectfully submitted,

**MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION**

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