

Dockets - 222

(GEN Doc. 90-314



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

93-253

Honorable Ted Stevens  
United States Senate  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0201

Dear Senator Stevens:

This is in response to your letter of September 15, 1993, addressing the issue of cellular operators dominating the personal communications service (PCS).

I share your concern, and believe that the public interest will be served best if there is vigorous competition between PCS and cellular providers. On September 23, 1993, in our PCS proceeding, GEN Docket No. 90-314, we adopted final rules that restrict a cellular provider in its own service area to acquiring one 10 MHz channel block from the 120 MHz of spectrum allocated for PCS licensed services. A cellular licensee is permitted to participate in PCS outside of its service area, or in any area where the cellular licensee serves less than 10 percent of the population of the PCS service area. We believe this approach will ensure competition between PCS providers and cellular providers, and among PCS providers.

As you note, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 amended the Communications Act by adding section 332(c)(1)(C), which gives the Commission ongoing flexibility to ensure competition among PCS and cellular providers. Also on September 23, 1993, in a separate proceeding we proposed rules to implement that legislation. I anticipate that the Commission will adopt final rules in that proceeding early next year. I have enclosed copies of the press releases for these Commission actions.

Sincerely,

James H. Quello  
Chairman

Enclosure

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September 15, 1993

The Honorable James H. Quello  
Acting Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Jim:

I have just received a copy of the September 14 letter sent to you by Larry Irving, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, which outlines the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) position with respect to licensing of personal communications services (PCS). The concern about cellular operators dominating the PCS market is one that I share, and I support NTIA's recommendations regarding license eligibility and multiple competitors.

As you may be aware a new provision, section 332(c)(1)(C) of the Communications Act, was enacted by Congress at my request to give the Commission the ongoing flexibility to ensure competition among PCS and cellular providers. By implementing the suggestions contained in NTIA's letter, the Commission will help ensure a competitive PCS market from the very beginning.

With best wishes,

Cordially,



TED STEVENS