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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Received

AUG 20 1997

Chief of the Bureau  
Division  
Chief of the Office

Regina M. Keeney, Chief  
Common Carrier Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Re. DA 97-109 CC Docket No. 96-159

Dear Ms. Keeney,

This is to request expeditious handling of petitions in the matter of Extended Local Calling Service between Bell Atlantic's Honaker Exchange in the Roanoke LATA and GTE's Richlands Exchange in the Bluefield, West Virginia IMA. The citizens of these communities have complied with all applicable Federal and State Statutes and Regulations regarding the provisioning of this service and GTE has implemented the service from Richlands to Honaker, while Bell Atlantic is still awaiting action from the FCC with regard to its request for LATA boundary relief. Since GTE began offering the toll-free service to its customers in Richlands (July '96), customers in Honaker and Tazewell have approved the same service arrangement, which GTE plans to implement in August of 1997.

There is no apparent compelling reason for the denial of Bell Atlantic's request for waiver in this instance and this situation is patently discriminatory in its effect on the Bell Atlantic customers in the Honaker Exchange. It has the additional effect of impeding the communication essential to commerce between these two communities, who are so interdependent in the important areas of Health Care, Education, Employment, Retail Trade and General Commerce.

I urge you to consider the effect of continued denial of these - and other petitions in like instances- on the every-day lives of the customers who have chosen to approve these initiatives on behalf of their communities.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

*Velma Sue Dye 991 1448*  
*P.O. Box 191*  
*Swords Creek VA. 24849*

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1