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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
1919 M STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

DA 98-1638

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**Released: August 14, 1998**

**COMMISSION SEEKS COMMENT ON REQUEST  
FOR COMMISSION ACTION FILED BY  
MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION  
CONCERNING CARRIER IDENTIFICATION CODES  
(CC Docket No. 92-237)**

Comment Date: August 19, 1998  
No Reply Comment Period

On October 22, 1997, in the CICs Order on Reconsideration, the Commission created a "two-step" transition from three-digit to four-digit carrier identification codes (CICs). Administration of the North American Numbering Plan, Carrier Identification Codes (CICs), Order on Reconsideration, Order on Application for Review and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, CC Docket No. 92-237, FCC 97-386 (rel. Oct. 22, 1997). In the first phase, the Commission mandated that all local exchange carriers (LECs) providing equal access complete switch changes to recognize four-digit CICs by January 1, 1998. The second phase, which ends on June 30, 1998, is intended to allow interexchange carriers (IXCs) time to prepare their networks for, and educate their customers about, the replacement of three-digit CICs by four-digit CICs. After June 30, 1998, only four-digit CICs and seven-digit CACs will be recognized.

In response to a Request for Expedited Declaratory Ruling by BellSouth Corporation, on May 1, 1998, the Common Carrier Bureau (Bureau) released the CICs Declaratory Order, clarifying the Commission's requirements regarding the blocking of three-digit CICs. Administration of the North American Numbering Plan, Carrier Identification Codes (CICs), Declaratory Ruling, CC Docket No. 92-237, DA 98-828 (rel. May 1, 1998). The Bureau clarified that carriers may not begin blocking three-digit CICs earlier than July 1, 1998. The Bureau, however, waived the July 1, 1998, deadline for the complete blocking of all three-digit CICs to allow a phase-out of three-digit CICs, with all blocking of three-digit CICs to be completed no later than September 1, 1998.

On August 12, 1998, MCI Communications Corporation (MCI) filed a Petition for Emergency Stay of the September 1, 1998 phase-out deadline for the blocking of three-digit CICs ordered by the CICs Declaratory Ruling. In its petition, MCI states that a recently discovered technical problem threatens the integrity of all "dial-around" interexchange services. It also states that the majority of LECs are deficient in their conversion to four-digit CICs, with over 56% of LEC end offices yet to be converted. MCI requests that the Commission: (1) direct Bell Atlantic

to immediately halt its CIC transition while the Bureau takes no more than 10 days to determine if similar action is needed in each incumbent LEC territory; (2) direct all LECs to provide appropriate intercept announcements for access code calls placed using three-digit CICs; and (3) stay the September 1 deadline for blocking three-digit CICs and order LECs to immediately halt all blocking-related activity. MCI states that once the Bureau is satisfied that the problems raised in its petition have been resolved, the Commission then can allow the phase-out of three-digit CICs to continue with completion set at three months from the re-start of the LEC phase-out.

Interested parties may file comments no later than August 19, 1998. Because of the nature of MCI's request, no reply comment period is provided. An original and four copies of all comments must be filed in accordance with Section 1.51(e) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.51(e). In addition, one copy of each pleading must be filed with the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Services, Inc., 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036, and two copies with the Chief, Network Services Division, Room 235, 2000 M Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20554.

Because this proceeding involves broad public policy issues, the Bureau will treat the proceeding as "permit but disclose" for purposes of the Commission's ex parte rules. See generally 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200-1.1216. As a "permit but disclose" proceeding, ex parte presentations will be governed by the procedures set forth in section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules applicable to non-restricted proceedings.

Parties making oral ex parte presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must contain a summary of the substance of the presentation and not merely a listing of the subjects discussed. More than a one or two sentence description of the views and arguments presented is generally required. See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b)(2). Other rules pertaining to oral and written presentations are set forth in section 1.1206 (b) as well.

For further information, contact Renee Alexander, (202) 418-2497, or Kris Monteith, (202) 418-1098, at the Network Services Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission.

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