

FCC MAIL SECTION

Federal Communications Commission

DA 99-1855

SEP 14 11 41 AM '99

ENG

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

| | | |
|--|---|----------------------|
| In the Matters of |) | |
| |) | |
| Ameritech Corporation Telephone Operating |) | CC Docket No. 99-117 |
| Companies' Continuing Property Records Audit |) | |
| |) | ASD File No. 99-22 |
| Bell Atlantic (North) Telephone Companies' |) | |
| Continuing Property Records Audit |) | |
| |) | |
| Bell Atlantic (South) Telephone Companies' |) | |
| Continuing Property Records Audit |) | |
| |) | |
| BellSouth Telecommunications' |) | |
| Continuing Property Records Audit |) | |
| |) | |
| Pacific Bell and Nevada Bell Telephone |) | |
| Companies' Continuing Property Records Audit |) | |
| |) | |
| Southwestern Bell Telephone Company's |) | |
| Continuing Property Records Audit |) | |
| |) | |
| US West Telephone Companies' |) | |
| Continuing Property Records Audit |) | |

ORDER

Adopted: September 10, 1999

Released: September 10, 1999

By the Chief, Accounting Safeguards Division, Common Carrier Bureau:

1. On April 7, 1999, the Commission released a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) in the above-captioned proceeding. The NOI seeks comment on ten issues arising out of the Common Carrier Bureau's continuing property record audits of the Regional Bell Operating Companies. Comments were due on June 7, 1999 and reply comments were due on July 7, 1999.

2. On May 28, 1999, MCI Worldcom, Inc. (MCI) filed a request for a thirty-day extension of time to file comments and reply comments. Petitioner contended that the requested extension of time would permit parties to analyze the highly technical issues in the NOI, which are in

the fields of accounting, auditing, and statistical analysis. On June 2, 1999, we granted MCI's request, establishing a comment date of July 7, 1999 and a reply date of August 6, 1999.

3. On June 22, 1999, MCI filed a request to make public certain materials related to the continuing property record audits. This request was made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, and Section 0.461 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 0.461.

4. On June 24, 1999, MCI filed a request for a further extension of time. Petitioner contended that the requested extension of time would permit the custodian of the records to act on the Freedom of Information Act request and allow MCI and other interested parties to time analyze the requested materials. On July 2, 1999, we granted MCI's request, establishing a comment date of September 13, 1999 and a reply date of October 13, 1999.

5. On September 9, 1999, MCI filed a request for a further extension of time. MCI asks that the Commission extend the time to file comments to September 23, 1999 and extend the time to file replies until October 25, 1999. MCI seeks this extension to permit MCI, and other interested parties, time to complete their review of information made available for inspection under protective order, by the Common Carrier Bureau, on August 1, 1999.¹

6. We conclude that granting a further extension of time will serve the public interest by allowing MCI and other interested parties to review the information contained in the continuing property record materials, and to make informed comment in the NOI proceeding. Accordingly, it is ORDERED that, pursuant to Section 1.46 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.46, that the deadline for filing comments IS EXTENDED up to and including September 23, 1999, and the deadline for filing reply comments IS EXTENDED up to and including October 25, 1999.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION



Kenneth P. Moran
Chief, Accounting Safeguards Division
Common Carrier Bureau

¹ MCI Request for Extension of Time at 2.