



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Ave M. Bie, Chairperson  
Joseph P. Mettner, Commissioner  
John H. Farrow, Commissioner

## ORIGINAL

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APR 25 2000

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling, Chief  
Common Carrier Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20024-2101

CC: 96-45

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Investigation on the Commission's Own Motion Into the Sale of  
Exchanges by GTE North Incorporated to CenturyTel of Central  
Wisconsin, LLC and Telephone USA of Wisconsin, LLC

05-TI-262

Petition of GTE North Incorporated and Telephone USA of  
Wisconsin, LLC, for Waiver of Study Area Boundaries

Dear Mr. Strickling:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Wisconsin Commission) submits this letter in anticipation of the filing of a joint petition for waiver of study area boundaries by Telephone USA of Wisconsin, LLC (Telephone USA), and GTE North Incorporated (GTE), arising from the sale and purchase of 35 local exchanges in Wisconsin.

Pursuant to the Common Carrier Bureau's order issued June 21, 1995, in dockets DA 95-1403 and AAD 95-78, local exchange carriers shall file with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as part of any petition for a waiver of a study area boundary, a state certificate or other valid document that demonstrates that the affected state commission does not object to a proposed reconfiguration of study area boundaries. At its open meeting today, the Wisconsin Commission determined that it has no objection to the issuance of a study area waiver associated with Telephone USA's acquisition of the 35 local exchanges from GTE.

While the Wisconsin Commission does not have jurisdiction over the approval of the sale and purchase of local exchanges, it has begun a review of the transaction under its continuing supervisory jurisdiction over the operations of Telephone USA and GTE in the state of Wisconsin. The parties have kept the Wisconsin Commission apprised of the nature of the transaction and have committed to work with the Wisconsin Commission in achieving a smooth transfer of the properties. In addition, Telephone USA has made specific commitments that should preserve competition in the 35 exchanges.

Therefore, the Wisconsin Commission hereby states for the record that it does not oppose issuance of study area waivers associated with the proposed transaction. It is the Wisconsin Commission's specific intent that this statement be accepted as compliance with the requirement set forth in the Common Carrier Bureau's order issued June 21, 1995 (DA 95-1403 and AAD 95-78).

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Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling  
Docket 05-TI-262  
Page 2

Questions or communications on this matter may be addressed to Thomas Ferris, Audit Manager,  
Telecommunications Division, at (608) 266-1124.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, April 4, 2000

By the Commission:

  
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Lynda L. Dorr  
Secretary to the Commission

LLD:TJF:reb:slg:t:ss\letter\05ti262 Telephone USA ltr

cc: Timothy J. Steffes, CenturyTel  
Carrie Cox, Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C.  
Daniel Matson, GTE  
Records Management, MFC