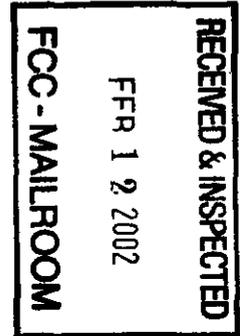


FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20554
 February 11, 2002



Mr. Jeff Ward
 Senior Vice President – Regulatory Compliance
 Verizon Communications
 1310 North Courthouse Rd. - 4th floor
 Arlington, VA 22201

RE: *Bell Atlantic/GTE Merger Order*, CC Docket No. 98-184

Dear Mr. Ward:

With this letter, the Common Carrier Bureau (Bureau) approves the request of Verizon Communications, Inc. (Verizon) to modify certain business rules for special access performance measurements.

Pursuant to the *Bell Atlantic/GTE Merger Order*, Verizon reports data on five performance measurements that capture its provisioning and maintenance of special access services to Genuity and other long distance carriers.¹ In August 2000, Verizon proposed business rules for the measurements, and the Bureau approved them with minor modifications on September 19, 2000.²

Verizon subsequently asked the Bureau to approve two changes to the business rules for the Average Installation Interval measurement.³ Specifically, Verizon asked to delete the exclusion for “orders having commitment dates set by customers.” Verizon explains that every due date for special access installed by Verizon is negotiated by the customer and Verizon. As a result, Verizon’s current business rules would exclude all data for this measurement. Second, Verizon states that it “has determined that the results that it has been reporting for the former GTE states have been computed in calendar days, not business days.”⁴ Verizon represents that its measurement systems for the former GTE states cannot be fixed to calculate the installation interval in business days. Verizon therefore requests that the business rules be changed to reflect this difference.

Based on our discussions relating to this proposal, I find that both requests will make the business rules more accurate, and therefore approve Verizon’s proposed changes. Verizon should submit new business rules, revised consistent with the changes approved herein, within five business days of the date of this letter.

¹ Applications of GTE Corporation, Transferor, and Bell Atlantic Corporation, Transferee, For Consent to Transfer Control of Domestic and International Sections 214 and 310 Authorizations and Application to Transfer Control of a Submarine Cable Landing License, CC Docket No. 98-184, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 15 FCC Rcd 14032, Appendix D, ¶ 53, (2000) (*Bell Atlantic/GTE Merger Order* or *Merger Order*).

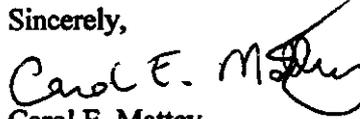
² See Letter from Carol Matthey, Deputy Chief, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, to Jeff Ward, Senior Vice President – Regulatory Compliance, Verizon, 15 FCC Rcd 17925 (Sept. 19, 2000).

³ See Letter from Gerald Asch, Director, Federal Regulatory, Verizon, to Dorothy Attwood, Chief, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission (May 15, 2001).

⁴ *Id.*

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance. You may also contact Mark Stone in the Common Carrier Bureau directly at (202) 418-0816 for further information on this matter.

Sincerely,



Carol E. Matthey
Deputy Chief, Common Carrier Bureau

CC: Gerald Asch, Verizon