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October 14, 2003

EX PARTE – VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **CC Docket No. 01-338** (Verizon 271 forbearance petition),
CC Docket No. 96-149 (Verizon OI&M forbearance petition), and
CC Docket No. 02-200 (Verizon I+/payphone forbearance petition)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 10, 2003, Kim Scardino of MCI, Richard Metzger of Lawler, Metzger & Milkman, representing MCI, Tom Koutsky of Z-Tel, and I met with Commissioner Martin and Dan Gonzalez, his Senior Legal Advisor, to discuss the pending forbearance petitions. We pointed out that the Commission had rejected the basis for Verizon's petition requesting forbearance from items on the section 271 checklist in the recent *Triennial Review Order* by concluding that section 271 establishes independent access obligations on the BOCs. We noted that the I+/payphone petition was unopposed, and therefore provided an inappropriate record for deciding important issues. We also pointed out that Verizon had failed to show that it had satisfied the requirements of section 10(d) in its OI&M petition, but instead argued that section 10(d) was not implicated. We stated that Verizon ought not be allowed to attempt to cure that defect by means of ex parte filings.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christopher J. Wright
Counsel to Z-Tel Communications, Inc.