

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of

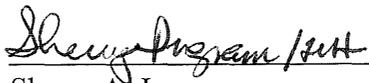
Telephone Number Portability

CC Docket No. 95-116

VERIZON'S SUPPORT OF BELL SOUTH'S PETITION FOR EXTENSION

Verizon¹ supports BellSouth's request for an extension to respond to the Further NPRM in this proceeding. Based on last week's Federal Register publication, the due date for comments is December 30. The North American Numbering Council, however, at the Commission's request, will be considering these very issues at its meeting in mid January. The industry would be better equipped to comment on the questions asked by the Commission after these discussions have taken place. More important, these meetings might produce consensus positions that the NANC can present to the Commission on behalf of the industry — thus narrowing the disputes and the questions to be resolved by the Commission. The public interest would, therefore, be served by delaying the comments until after the NANC meeting.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: December 17, 2003

¹ The Verizon telephone companies are the local exchange carriers affiliated with Verizon Communications Inc., listed in Attachment A.

THE VERIZON TELEPHONE COMPANIES

The Verizon telephone companies are the local exchange carriers affiliated with Verizon Communications Inc. These are:

Contel of the South, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Mid-States
GTE Midwest Incorporated d/b/a Verizon Midwest
GTE Southwest Incorporated d/b/a Verizon Southwest
The Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation
Verizon California Inc.
Verizon Delaware Inc.
Verizon Florida Inc.
Verizon Hawaii Inc.
Verizon Maryland Inc.
Verizon New England Inc.
Verizon New Jersey Inc.
Verizon New York Inc.
Verizon North Inc.
Verizon Northwest Inc.
Verizon Pennsylvania Inc.
Verizon South Inc.
Verizon Virginia Inc.
Verizon Washington, DC Inc.
Verizon West Coast Inc.
Verizon West Virginia Inc.