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October 17, 2003

RECEIPT

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Federal Communication Commission  
Bureau / Office

Ms. Carol Matthey  
Deputy Bureau Chief,  
Wireline Competition Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW- Room 5C-450  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Merger Condition for Carrier-Carrier Performance Assurance Plan

Dear Ms. Matthey:

I am writing to request your approval to suspend the May 2004 reporting of performance data for the fGTE service areas in Pennsylvania. This reporting is required under condition 5 of the Merger Order. Suspending the May 2004 reporting requirement will facilitate the transition to OSS uniformity under condition 6<sup>1</sup> which will occur in May to July of 2004.

Previously, Verizon requested and received permission to temporarily suspend the reporting of performance data in the fGTE service areas of Virginia and Pennsylvania for the three-month periods of March through May 2002 and March through May 2003, respectively. A temporary suspension was granted for both of the three month conversion periods in recognition of the complexity of reporting and potential data corruption resulting during a conversion transition. Verizon completed the conversion of Virginia lines in May 2002. Verizon withdrew its request regarding the fGTE service areas of Pennsylvania in an April 23, 2003 letter to you<sup>2</sup> after it postponed the conversion of the Erie, PA LATA (the PA pilot transition area)<sup>3</sup>. That conversion has now been scheduled for May 2004.

Similar to the Virginia conversion, Verizon will begin by converting a pilot area, which will be the Erie, PA LATA, in May 2004. Verizon expects to convert the remaining fGTE serving areas in Pennsylvania to the fBA suite of systems by the end of July 2004. Verizon will notify the

<sup>1</sup> Within 5 years after the Merger Closing Date, Bell Atlantic/GTE will implement uniform, electronic OSS interfaces and business rules (including for pre-ordering and ordering components used to provide digital subscriber line (“xDSL”) and other Advanced Services) between the Bell Atlantic and GTE Service Areas in Pennsylvania and Virginia. (CC Docket No. 98-184, Conditions for Bell Atlantic/GTE Merger, Condition VI, paragraph 19(f)).

<sup>2</sup> See April 23, 2003 letter to Carol Matthey from Ann Berkowitz

<sup>3</sup> See March 31, 2003 letter to Carol Matthey from Ann Berkowitz

Commission of the final conversion at the same time it notifies CLECs operating in those service areas.

During the pilot and final transition periods Verizon will implement OSS uniformity across Pennsylvania as required under condition 6<sup>4</sup>. As we explained in our previously approved request for temporary suspension, during the respective transition period, Verizon will transfer Company and customer records from the fGTE systems to the fBA systems, making reporting of data imprecise and extraordinarily complex. The Commission previously agreed that the suspension would help Verizon achieve an orderly transition from the reporting of the data for Pennsylvania under the business rules specified for the fGTE service areas to the business rules specified for the fBA service areas, and avoid reporting potentially garbled or misleading data resulting from the transition period<sup>5</sup>. For these reasons, Verizon requests that the requirement to report performance data for the fGTE areas of Pennsylvania during that month be suspended. Since the performance reporting requirements of condition 5 will sunset for all fGTE states with the May 2004 data month, Verizon will not resume of the performance reports following the conversion period.

As before, Verizon does not request any suspension of its obligation to make payments under the Merger performance plan. Instead, Verizon proposes that the performance for the three months preceding May 2004 be used to calculate any payments that would be due on July 26, 2004. Attachment A provides details of Verizon's proposal. Using this substitute payment calculation is similar to the calculation used during the Virginia conversion period. Verizon believes that this substitute payment calculation will avoid any credible claim that Verizon is avoiding its obligations under the merger conditions

There will be no harm to the market or CLECs if Verizon's request is granted. The fGTE service areas of Pennsylvania represent less than 10% of the lines in that state served by Verizon. Performance data over the last 38 months for the fGTE service areas demonstrate Verizon has consistently provided excellent service. Indeed, the amount of voluntary payments made as a result of the wholesale performance plan specified in the merger order for performance for the fGTE service area of Pennsylvania averaged less than \$7,000 per month over the last 12 months. In addition, there are only 28 CLECs with approximately 57,000 lines in service in the fGTE Pennsylvania service areas.

As explained in Verizon's January 10, 2002 letter to Ms. Dorothy Attwood, the suspension of the performance reporting requirements for condition 5 of the Merger Order will allow Verizon's resources to concentrate on making an orderly transition to the new uniform OSS. Because the number of metrics and the types of metrics reported differ between the fGTE service areas and

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

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fBA service areas, reporting during May 2004 using two sets of business rules would be a difficult and complex process. Additionally, transactions in a given central office, initiated prior to conversion may be completed in a different suite of systems and therefore the calculated results would be misleading and incomplete during the May 2004 data month. The suspension eliminates the mis-matches between different metrics from different systems that would make the meaningful quantification of any payment obligations difficult, if not impossible.

Verizon will begin its pilot transition during May 2004 for the fGTE Pennsylvania access lines. In order to deploy resources appropriately, Verizon requests expeditious handling of this request. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Attachment

cc: Bill Dever  
Dennis Johnson  
Peter Young  
Diana Lee

**Verizon**  
**FGTE Pennsylvania Area for Pilot**  
**Transition Payment Obligations Schedule for Condition 5**

<b>Payment Due Date</b>	<b>Data Months and Business Rules</b>	<b>Recommended Data Months and Business Rules</b>
June 25, 2004	02/04-fGTE 03/04-fGTE 04/04--fGTE	No Change
July 26, 2004	03/04-fGTE 04/04-fGTE 05/04 ?	02/04-fGTE 03/04-fGTE 04/04-fGTE