

I ask that you deny the letter request of 2/25/05 by opponents of the SBC-AT&T merger asking that the Public Notice of the filing of this merger petition be delayed. Opponents do NOT need additional time to make their arguments against the merger; in fact, they are already making their arguments thru this letter. Granting this request would, in fact, harm the public interest by inhibiting the ability of all interested parties (including, potentially, the general public) to comment on the merger, a process that usually begins only AFTER the Public Notice is issued.

The clear intent of opponents is to delay the start of the informal "180-day timeline" for FCC consideration of the matter (which begins on the date of the Public Notice), a clearly impermissible purpose, especially since this matter is so complex that even applicants admit it won't be resolved within the "180-day timeline". The proper way to handle a matter of this complexity is to issue the Public Notice NOW, and then let its consideration extend past 180 days, as was done with the Cingular-AT&T Wireless deal. ANY further delay in issuing the Public Notice would help no one but opponents, and in fact harm not only SBC and AT&T, but also the general public and the Commission's own processes.

I am filing as a member of the general public who has no other interest in this matter besides being a customer of SBC (both directly and thru Cingular), and to a much lesser extent (limited to possession of one of their prepaid calling cards), AT&T. I am not expressing any opinion on the merger at this time. I am, however, expressing my opposition to opponents' letter because I believe it will seriously harm the public's ability to comment on this very important merger.

Please note that this is being sent ONLY to the FCC via ECFS, and not to anyone else. The reason for this is that, as a member of the general public, I cannot know where else to send it unless the Public Notice is issued; in fact, I had to review the Public Notice for the Sprint-Nextel merger to learn how to file this. This shows even MORE reason to grant my request, deny opponents' request, and IMMEDIATELY issue the Public Notice in its usual form. Thank you.