



April 25, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St., SW  
Suite TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 05-65

This is a response to the Matter of the Petition of SBC Communications, Inc. for AT&T to become a wholly owned subsidiary of SBC.

I wasn't aware that the Modified Final Judgement of 1982 expired or allowed for a Baby Bell to buy Ma Bell.

As Massachusetts Congressman Edward Markey stated, "The FCC's decisions are predictably causing companies to merge and will result in fewer competitors in the marketplace and that's bad news for consumers, high-tech workers, manufacturers and the prospects for further innovation."

This matter of consumer choice needs to be held in the highest regard. AT&T and MCI were the companies that counter-balanced the RBOCs. AT&T was in every market segment – cable, wireless, local, long distance, internet, and backbone. AT&T is Ma Bell. AT&T is the largest CLEC in America.

New York City announced a Telecom Plan today. It states that "The economic significance of New York's telecommunications infrastructure can be viewed from several different perspectives:

1. It is vital to the day-to-day operations of several of New York's largest and most important industries.
2. The quality of the City's telecommunications services can affect New York's attractiveness as a place for talented people to live, work and do business."

While this is true for NYC, it is equally true for all cities in America. Our economy is global and tied into communications.

This merger is about a grab for a national footprint and enterprise customers that SBC couldn't acquire any other way.

This merger will shrink the long distance market, which will result in higher LD rates for consumers. If you examine the LD rates, RBOCs typically charge more than other LD carriers. How is this good for consumers?

This merger will eliminate one the larger local competitors, resulting in a single choice – a monopoly choice – for most dial-tone customers. This will undoubtedly result in higher rates. While LD rates have dropped considerably in the last 8 years, while local rates have increased during the same period.

Again from the NYC Telecom study, "Carriers will increasingly attempt to defend revenue streams from franchise fees and other levies, applying pressure at the federal and state level to preempt

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municipal regulation of deployments and operation.”

The New York City Telecom Study came up with some interesting conclusions:

1. Multiple telecommunications providers using diverse technologies compete vigorously for the opportunity to meet business, non-profit and residents demands for:
  - a. Enhanced network reliability;
  - b. Increased network capacity and functionality; and
  - c. Useful applications of new telecommunications capabilities.
  
2. Competition drives providers to keep:
  - a. Extending their infrastructure to reach new customers;
  - b. Upgrading the capabilities of their networks;
  - c. Developing new products and services that aim to take advantage of these capabilities;
  - d. Providing high levels of customer service; and
  - e. Offering globally and nationally competitive pricing to both corporate customers and consumers.”

There needs to be stringent guidelines and enforcement if there merger was allowed. If not, innovation will be stifled; pure play VOIP and IPTV initiatives will be blocked; and pricing will increase.

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Regards,

Peter Radizeski  
RAD-INFO, Inc. – NSP Strategist  
Telecom Consultant  
813.963.5884