

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Petition of AT&T Inc. for Special	)	
Temporary Authority and Waiver	)	WC Docket No. 06-63
to Support Disaster Planning and	)	
Response	)	

**COMMENTS OF QWEST COMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONAL INC.**

Qwest Communications International Inc., on behalf of its affiliates Qwest Communications Corporation, Qwest LD Corporation and Qwest Corporation [hereafter referred to jointly as “Qwest”], hereby files comments supporting the Petition of AT&T Inc. for Special Temporary Authority and Waiver to Support Disaster Planning and Response (the “Petition”)<sup>1</sup> that was filed with the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) on March 10, 2006 and states:

In its Petition, AT&T “requests Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) and a waiver of Commission rules to engage in integrated disaster planning and response” without need to observe certain structural separation requirements set forth in Section 272 of the Act or the Commission’s network disclosure rules (47 C.F.R. §§ 51.325-51.335). AT&T demonstrates that this relief is consistent with the Commission’s recent actions in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.<sup>2</sup>

AT&T asks for three things in the Petition: (1) that the Commission permit AT&T, notwithstanding the prohibitions of Section 272(c) against such information sharing under normal circumstances, to share critical, non-public Bell Operating Company (“BOC”) network

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<sup>1</sup> See Public Notice, DA 06-590, rel. Mar. 17, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> AT&T Petition at 1.

information “with any section 272 affiliate (as well as with other affiliates that adhere to the section 272-like safeguards)” as necessary to engage in integrated disaster relief planning in advance of another disaster event;<sup>3</sup> (2) that the Commission make clear now that, in the event of another disaster, AT&T will again (*i.e.*, as was done in connection with the response to Hurricanes Rita and Katrina)<sup>4</sup> be granted the flexibility to “use its corporate network, personnel and facilities, including its affiliates, in its entire region without regard to section 272 and the Commission’s rules governing compliance with section 272”<sup>5</sup> and be granted a waiver of the Commission’s network disclosure rules in connection with its disaster response activities;<sup>6</sup> and (3) while noting that the Commission would retain the authority to determine whether and for how long AT&T could use such flexibility in response to a disaster, AT&T asks that the Commission make clear now that, in the event a catastrophic event occurs without warning, AT&T is entitled to invoke its disaster response plan for a brief period without prior approval by the Commission.<sup>7</sup>

Qwest supports the granting of the relief requested by AT&T in its Petition. Indeed, disaster planning is an imperative for all BOCs. While the events surrounding Hurricanes Rita and Katrina were centered in the in-region territories of BellSouth and AT&T, all BOCs are at risk of the kinds of events described in AT&T’s Petition (*e.g.*, earthquakes or other natural disasters, terrorist attacks, pandemics or other similar events) in their respective, in-region

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<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 3.

<sup>4</sup> As is described more fully in AT&T’s Petition, at pages 4 and 9-10 notes 20 and 22, the Commission, in connection with the Katrina disaster, granted SBC a 45-day STA relieving SBC of certain Section 272 obligations and granted other related relief in connection with its disaster response to Hurricane Katrina.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 15, note 32, quoting the *Network Disclosure Waiver Order*, 20 FCC Rcd 14713 ¶ 3.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 15.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 16.

territories. All BOCs should receive similar relief in connection with both their present disaster planning and their future disaster responses. Like AT&T, Qwest's disaster planning and response efforts are (and would be) hamstrung by Section 272 and the Commission's related rules and the Commission's network disclosure rules. Like AT&T, Qwest is a major telecommunications provider to government and non-government agencies that are directly involved in disaster response. Like AT&T, Qwest would benefit greatly in its disaster planning and response from having certainty with respect to its ability to respond to future events, having flexibility in accomplishing effective advance disaster planning and having the ability to take action, in some circumstances, without needing advanced approval from the Commission.

AT&T's Petition seeks narrowly tailored relief to accomplish an important cause. For the reasons discussed above, Qwest supports the granting of the relief described in AT&T's Petition provided that similar relief is extended to other similarly situated carriers as well.

Respectfully submitted,

QWEST COMMUNICATIONS  
INTERNATIONAL INC.

By: /s/ Timothy M. Boucher  
Craig J. Brown  
Timothy M. Boucher  
Suite 950  
607 14<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005  
(303) 383-6608

Its Attorneys

April 3, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Richard Grozier, do hereby certify that I have caused the foregoing **COMMENTS OF QWEST COMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONAL INC.** to be 1) filed with the FCC via its Electronic Comment Filing System in WC Docket No. 06-63, 2) served via e-mail on Ms. Janice Myles, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission at [janice.myles@fcc.gov](mailto:janice.myles@fcc.gov), 3) served via e-mail on the FCC's duplicating contractor Best Copy and Printing, Inc. at [fcc@bcpiweb.com](mailto:fcc@bcpiweb.com), and 4) served via First Class United States mail, postage prepaid, on the parties listed below.

/s/ Richard Grozier  
Richard Grozier

April 3, 2006

Gary L. Phillips  
Paul K. Mancini  
AT&T Inc.  
1401 I Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005

Colin S. Stretch  
Kellogg, Huber, Hansen,  
Todd, Evans & Figel, P.L.L.C.  
Sumner Square  
Suite 400  
1615 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036