

Recently it was announced in the news, that AT&T will be buying Verizon's cell phone system in many western states. It appears that this will be permitted even though there will be negative impact to the customers, especially those (like myself) who recently renewed the contract with Verizon in order to purchase a new phone. Because the contract is a 2 year contract which will not be usable after the merger, I may have to pay a penalty for early termination. In addition, I will have to purchase a new phone, at my own expense, because the old one will not work on the AT&T system.

Therefore, I request that a constraint to permitting the merger, be that AT&T will pay any customer expenses, replace, at no charge, any unusable phone, and that the phone number remain intact.

Mergers, consolidations, etc. should not financially impact the customer; such protection of the customer is a basic purpose of the FCC and should exist if this AT&T and Verizon agreement is allowed.

Please register my concern and provide a condition to the agreement that new phones must be provided free of charge, and no fee due to early termination of contract to existing customers shall be imposed.