

I'd like to comment on the proposed "merge" of Comcast and GE/NBC (MB Dkt. 10-56.)

I am currently a Comcast customer and rely on Comcast for both television and internet access. Because of the huge expense in developing a physical infrastructure for high-speed communications, Comcast and Verizon have virtual monopolies on the business in my local area. I'm sure that in many parts of the country, only a single provider offers service.

I have great concern over this merger because NBC, and specifically, MSNBC has a strong history of being the political mouthpiece for the Democratic party. In the news business, MSNBC is balanced by Fox news which tends to be the mouthpiece for the Republican party.

The idea that a political active organization (in this case NBC) could gain access over my information carrier is frightening, especially when it is a virtual monopoly in my area. This could put them into a position to pull Fox news, or other opposing news organizations from the TV line-up. In today's political climate, this kind of tactic wouldn't really be that surprising.

In the future, the FCC should begin to consider whether information/content providers should be separate business entities from the physical carriers. This model is being carried out in the energy industry where separate, regulated entities handle the distribution (due to the high infrastructure costs), while energy providers compete with each other.

If the FCC is going to allow organizations like NBC to gain control (albeit only 49%) over a Comcast network infrastructure, then the FCC needs to insure through regulation, or other means, that Comcast continue to carry a diversity of news channels that offer a variety of political points of view.

I have the same concern over internet access, but the FCC is deliberating this issue on it's own.

I understand that my comments may sound alarmist and extreme, but the precedent is important. In today's world, access to internet and access to television are virtual necessities and it is vital that the FCC not allow this access to be controlled by a small group of CEO's, Corporate board members, and Corporate executives.

Allowing the merger of Comcast and NBC is a very large step in exactly the wrong direction.

Thank You,  
Ted LaFemina