

Verizon a while back was reportedly criticizing the FCC for taking too long to approve or deny the Verizon Wireless SpectrumCo and Cox license transfers saying the 6 month period was too long and compared these deals to AT&T's bid for 700 MHz spectrum from Qualcomm that was approved. However, there are fundamental differences between the AT&T/Qualcomm deal and the Verizon Wireless SpectrumCo an Cox deals. First AT&T was only acquiring 12 MHz of 700 MHz spectrum from Qualcomm. These deals in contrast with the cable companies are for 20 MHz of AWS spectrum and considering Verizon has plenty of existing AWS spectrum there have been concerns of massive spectrum concentration.

Another point is that the AT&T Qualcomm deal was just a spectrum transfer and there was no controversial and collusive agency resale and joint operating entity agreements like the Verizon Wireless ("cable cartel") marketing deals. Thirdly, the review of the AT&T Qualcomm deal took even longer as it was tied to the review of AT&T Mobility's T-Mobile USA merger application, which after being denied by the FCC Ma Bell withdrew to refocus on its fight with the Justice Department. The AT&T T-Mobile merger would have given the new Ma Bell (formed from re-merging SBC Communications & Bell South in the 2000s after 1984 Ma Bell breakup) a Ma Cell on wireless.